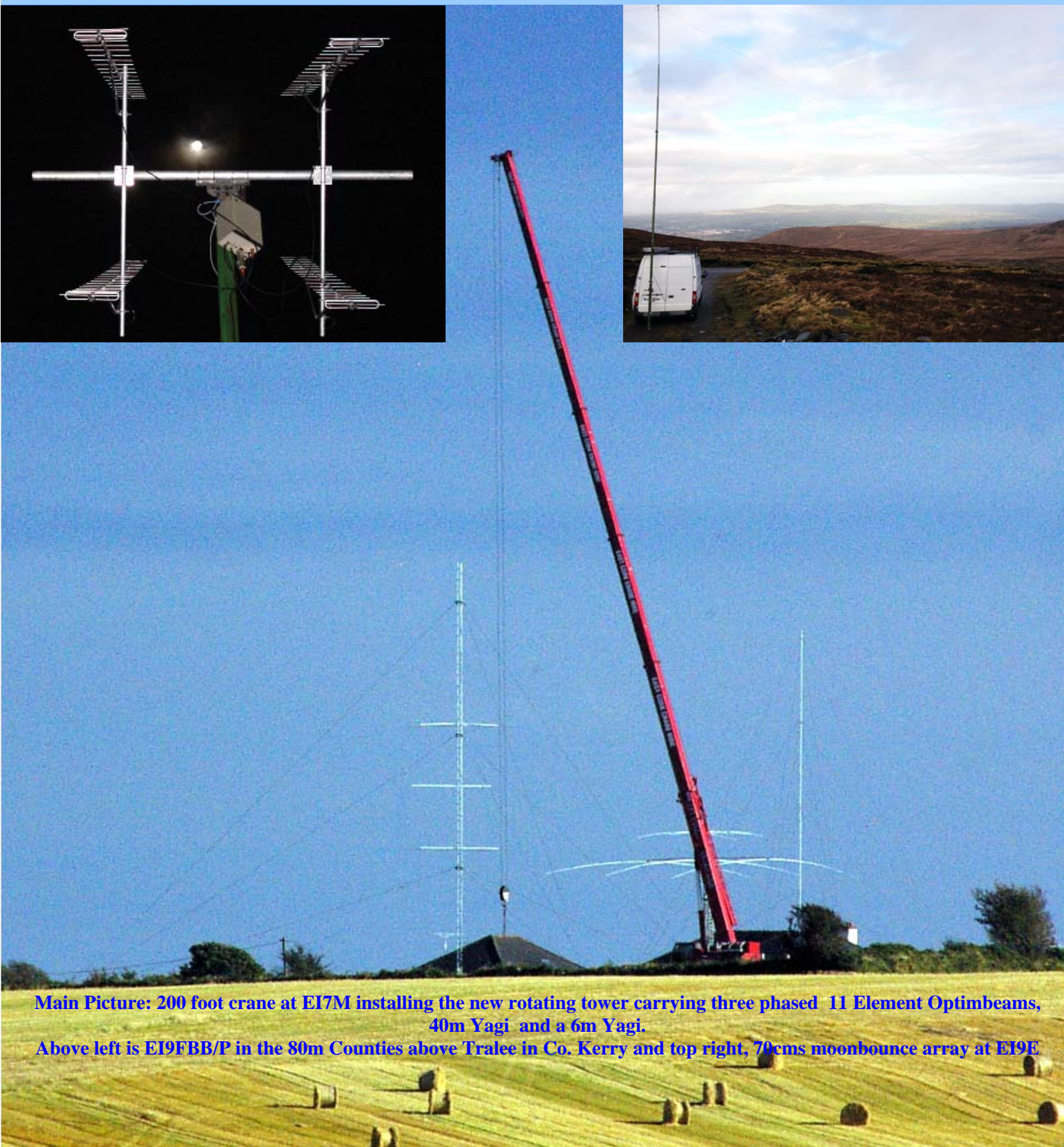




ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society

January 2013



Main Picture: 200 foot crane at EI7M installing the new rotating tower carrying three phased 11 Element Optimbeams, 40m Yagi and a 6m Yagi.

Above left is EI9FBB/P in the 80m Counties above Tralee in Co. Kerry and top right, 70cms moonbounce array at EI9E

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News Bulletins and Readers

Sunday				
Dublin	1100	7.123	SSB	Sean EI7CD, Ger EI4GXB
				Francis EI5GOB, George EI7GKB
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB	(as Gaeilge) Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Tony EI5EM, John EI7JG, Frank EI6EF, Liam EI3HK
Clare	1200	3.650	SSB	Ger EI4GXB
Mayo	2000	145.600 - 433.450	FM	70.375 - 50.450
				John EI7IQ, Padraic EI9JA, Jimmy EI2GCB
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI2IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF, Eddie EI3FFB
Monday				
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Simon EI7ALB, Gerry EI3JU, Ger EI4GXB
Louth	2000	145.675		Thos EI2JD, Anthony EI2KC, Jim EI2HJB
Tuesday				
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	Francis EI5GOB
North Cork	2000	430.925	FM	Lisa EI9GSB

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Committee Members 2012/13

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 Vice President Jim Smith EI4CP
 Past president Paul Martin EI2CA
 John Owen-Jones EI1EM
 Thos Caffrey EI2JD
 Anthony Murphy EI2KC
 Tony Casey EI3HA
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 Ger McNamara EI4GXB
 Stephen Wright EI5DD
 Dave O'Connor EI6AL
 Brendan Minish EI6IZ
 John Ronan EI7IG
 John McCarthy EI8JA
 Jim Holohan EI4HH

Diary Dates 2013

Lough Erne Rally April 7th 2013

IRTS AGM, Athlone April 27/28th

**40 Metre News Frequency
is now 7123kHz**

1100 Sundays

When is my membership due for renewal?

Your membership renewal date is shown on the wrapper in which the newsletter is posted – above the name and address. For those who receive Echo Ireland by electronic distribution, the renewal date is included in the email alert sent when a new issue is published.

Members who pay by direct debit will see “(DD)” after the renewal date.

Use www.irts.ie/renew to renew your membership at any time; you can also renew at a Rally, or by sending your annual subscription directly to the IRTS Treasurer.

Please renew early to keep our postage and other costs down.

Membership is extended by 12 months from the normal renewal date whenever a payment is received.

Joe Ryan, Membership Records Officer
memrecords@irts.ie

Online Access to Echo Ireland

If you would like to have online access to the complete library of Echo Ireland issues from 2001 onwards and receive new issues of Echo Ireland by way of electronic download instead of in hard copy, please advise the Membership Records Officer.

Include your call sign and email address in the request and send it to:
memrecords@irts.ie

Input for Echo Ireland

to ei4bz@eircom.net

087-6290574

Silent Key

Philip Murphy EI8HN



It was only recently that I learned of the passing of Philip Murphy EI8HN, last July in the UK.

Philip was an active member of both the North Dublin and Fingal radio clubs before he emigrated to first Lancashire before moving more recently to Sunderland.

He served on the committees of both clubs and for several years Philip was the Morse tutor in NDR and assisted many amateurs in obtaining their A call-signs in that far off 12 wpm era.

He was a true gentleman and always had a friendly word for all. I never heard him say a bad word against anybody.

Philip was always available to assist and support field-days or other club events. I remember running a construction project in NDR many years ago and despite failing eyesight, Philip was the first to put his name down for it. I can still see him trying to solder while looking through a magnifying glass but his project was completed and worked first time!

He also supported NDR trips to rallies and indeed the photograph above was taken at the Llandudno rally in 1999. The last time Philip contacted me was over a year ago when he was looking for advice on buying a QRP kit. I will never know now if he ever bought it or put it on air.

Philip Murphy was a big man with a big heart. He was also very religious and I know that he is now looking down on us all from beyond the ionosphere.
Ar dheis-lamh Dé go raibh a h-ainm dílis.

Tony EI5EM

Silent Key

Jimmy Porter GI3GGY/EI3JC

Derry radio amateur Jimmy Porter GI3GGY/EI3JC passed away on Wednesday, November 7, aged 92.

Jimmy's was probably the best known voice from GI as he read the RSGB Sunday morning news bulletins for over 50 years.

He started reading the news using his own callsign on 7047.5kHz on AM on an experimental basis on March 14th 1954. It was the following year before the authorities gave permission for the GB2RS broadcasts to be initiated.

Jimmy was interested in amateur radio since 1935 and he got his licence in December 1948.

He operated a radio and television shop at William Street in Derry.

Jimmy was also well known for his monstrous rotatable 16 element Log Periodic, model LPH-9, which was mounted on twin towers at 90 feet above ground.

The antenna weighted 6,000 pounds and it has a gain of 15db and covers a frequency range from 6MHz to 35MHz. The boom length is 66 feet; the longest element is 78 feet with a diameter of 3 inches in the centre tapering to 1 inch at the tip; the shortest element is 14 feet.

He has three sons who are also licensed Radio Amateurs John GI4JVP, James GI0GGY and Brendan MI0GGY.

We extend to them our sincerest sympathies as well as his other five children. He was pre-deceased by his wife Dolly.



A Message from IRTS President Séamus McCague EI8BP

I am very aware of how the Irish Radio Transmitters Society has prospered despite the changes to our hobby in the past eight decades. This success can be attributed to the dedication and enthusiasm of the generations of volunteers that have given their time so generously to the Society. By sharing their skills and passion our volunteers have been the life line of our Society.

To our volunteers I want to extend, on my own behalf and on behalf of every member, my sincere thanks to all who have given their time – without you we would not be the society we are today. As we enter a new year, our ninth decade, I want to ensure that there are new volunteers to follow in the footsteps of the men and women before them.

I understand that everyone has a list of commitments and that for you to sign up to another one may seem daunting. Or perhaps you feel that you have no relevant skills to offer. Let me assure you that the most important skill is enthusiasm! Any amount of time you can spare would make a significant contribution to our Society – a contribution that your fellow, and indeed future, members will appreciate. So I appeal to all members, if you make one resolution this New Year let it be to volunteer some time to a society that has served both you and past generations for the past 80 years. Do not leave it to the few. It is our Society.

I want to thank on your behalf all our dedicated team of QSL managers who provide a first class QSL service.

We are fortunate that we have a publication in Echo Ireland whose quality exceeds that of similar-sized societies throughout the world. Contributions are always welcome.

To the Editor and contributors, thank you. Our weekly radio news service relies on member contributions. To those who contribute, thank you. To our News Editor, thank you. To those that read the news every week, thank you. New readers are always welcome.

We sometimes take for granted the work that goes on in the background and which may not be immediately obvious.

Whether it be routing incoming correspondence, representing our members to ComReg and IARU, arranging delivery of Echo Ireland, maintaining the web site, organising exams, scoring contests, AREN, or keeping track of membership. These are just some of the activities of dedicated volunteers who give their time when they could be on the air.

We also have a group of volunteers who act as Regional Representatives. To them, thank you. The challenge of attracting new members is significant. Without an increase in membership our Society will, in common with many others, find it difficult to make ends meet.

As you are aware our biggest item is the cost of producing and mailing Echo Ireland, a publication of which we can rightly feel proud. We must preserve this important link. Please encourage your fellow amateurs to join and support our Society,



The Society *is* the membership. What can we do to improve it?

2013 is the year of *The Gathering*. IRTS obtained the special callsign **EI13CLAN**. This callsign is available to be used on request by all members. Why not take the opportunity to operate using this unique callsign? Do not leave it to the few.

Details are available by clicking on the Gathering Button on the IRTS website. Special thanks are due to Dave EI6AL for putting it all together.

To all our members and to all radio amateurs worldwide,

Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir

Séamus McCague EI8BP
President IRTS

EI80IRTS Award

Over 25,000 QSOs were made by EI80IRTS during 2012 to celebrate the 80th anniversary of IRTS. Awards are available for working the callsign 3 (bronze), 5 (silver) or 8 (gold) times on different bands.

Check your log and see if you qualified. Award applications to Thos EI2JD QTHR.

Full details on www.irts.ie

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Annual General Meeting Weekend

April 28/29th

**Shamrock Lodge Hotel
Athlone**

**Hosted by
Shannon Basin Radio Club**

Silent Key

John Chapman EI5JN

On the 26th November 2012 in the excellent care of the doctors, nurses and staff of Skibbereen Hospital, John Ash, Ceol na Mara, Cooscrooneen left this life in the care of those he loved.

Survived by his wife Nuala, daughter Tara, son-in-law Stephen, cousin Richard and family, kind neighbours, carers and friends.

Our deepest sympathy to his wife Nuala; daughter Tara and family.

May he rest in Peace

Revised Amateur Station Licence Guidelines

In June 2009 when the new Wireless Telegraphy (Amateur Station Licence) Regulations were published which, among other things, introduced the lifetime amateur licence, ComReg simultaneously published the very useful Amateur Station Licence Guidelines.

The Guidelines have now been revised and the revised version of the Amateur Station Licence Guidelines was published on 2 January 2013 in ComReg document 09/45R1.

The Guidelines include the following pieces of good news for licensed radio amateurs:

472-479kHz

A new band at 472 to 479 kHz which became available on a secondary basis to all licensed amateurs on 1 January, 2013 on the basis of a decision taken at WRC-12.

Footnote 5.A123 to the decision provides that the maximum equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP) shall not exceed 1 watt. Administrations may increase this limit of EIRP to 5 watts in portions of their territories more than 800 kms from the borders of a list of specified countries.

The footnote also states that stations in the amateur service shall not cause harmful interference to, or claim protection from, stations in the aeronautical radionavigation service.

The Society is pleased that ComReg has allowed 5 watts EIRP and ensured that the new allocation became available on the due date (Annex 1).

5MHz

Three additional 3 kHz channels have been made available in the 5 MHz band. The channels are centred on 5300, 5332, and 5348 kHz. The six 3 kHz channels now available are centred on 5280, 5300, 5332, 5348, 5400 and 5405 kHz when upper sideband, the convention on this band, is used.

Additional authorisation is required to operate on 5 MHz and application to do so must be made to ComReg on form 09/45 (d) (Annex 1).

10MHz Power Increase

Increase in power on the 10 MHz band from 100 watts (20dBW) to 400 watts (26 dBW) (Annex 1).

The latter two items were among the matters sought by the Society in its response to ComReg's April 2011 'Proposed Strategy for Managing the Radio Spectrum 2011-2013'.

In its Strategy document published in November 2011, ComReg undertook to consider these matters.

The Society appreciates the very satisfactory outcome on these two issues.

The revised Guidelines clarify a number of issues and the following points set out, in summary, the points concerned.

However, licensed amateurs and those interested in obtaining an amateur station licence are advised to familiarise themselves with the revised Guidelines:

It is made clear that the Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate under CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-02 is the only qualification accepted by ComReg for the purpose of granting an Amateur Station Licence. (Paragraph 19, page 11)

Under CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 ComReg also recognises licences granted by other National Regulatory Authorities on condition that such licences meet the specified standard of T/R 61-02. It is specifically stated that ComReg does not recognise Novice or Intermediate licences as suitable qualifications. (Paragraph 21, page 11)

Remote operation is mentioned for the first time as a station type that may be licensed. (See 'Others' in Table 1 on page 16).

Visitors Temporary Licences will only be granted to persons that have reached a standard equivalent to the HAREC.

Novice or Intermediate licences are not recognised for the issue of a Visitors Temporary Licence. It is good to see the existing practice specifically stated in the revised Guidelines (Paragraph 42, page 17).

The Guidelines revise and clarify the position in relation to the transfer of "silent key" call signs. These call signs may now only be transferred to an immediate next of kin of a deceased licensee. Such a transfer will only be permitted where the call sign in question had not lapsed within the lifetime of the licensee and an application to obtain the call sign is made within five years of the death of the licensee.

"Next of kin" for these purposes means a child, grandchild, sibling or spouse of a deceased licensee. Further, a next of kin who applies for such a call sign must hold a valid Amateur Station Licence or have passed a HAREC exam. (Paragraph 53, page 19).

It is specifically stated that ComReg does not re-issue lapsed call signs and that revoked call signs where a licence is surrendered or cancelled will not be re-issued. (Paragraphs 56 and 57, page 20).

The prohibition on the establishment or use of an amateur mobile station at sea (other than as part of a Maritime Mobile Operation) or within any estuary, dock or harbour or in the vicinity of an airport or radio navigation installation has been restated. This was omitted from the previous Guidelines of June 2009 but was in document ComReg 02/77R of 29 March 2009. (Paragraph 67, page 23).

The requirements in relation to Maritime Mobile operation are clearly set out in paragraphs 68 to 73 on pages 23 and 24. Maritime Mobile at 10 watts power is permitted on the 3.5, 7.0, 14.0, 18.0, 21.0, 24.0, 28.0 and 144 MHz bands.

The revised Amateur Station Licence Guidelines is a very useful information source to anyone interested in amateur radio.

The Society appreciates the work that the relevant staff of ComReg has put into the preparation of these Guidelines and is pleased to see that many of the suggestions put forward by the Society have been taken into account.

You can download the full 35 page document from the ComReg website.

http://www.comreg.ie/_fileupload/publications/ComReg0945R1.pdf

New MF Allocation

We were informed confidentially by ComReg on 21 December that the band segment 472 to 479 kHz was to become available to all licensed radio amateurs here, on a secondary basis, with effect from 1 January 2013. The maximum power is 5 watts (7 dBW) and the modes available are CW, QRSS, and narrow band digital modes. As requested this information was made available through the Radio News on 30 December 2012. The band is available generally and it is not necessary to apply for special permission to use the new allocation.

Footnotes to the WRC-12 decision indicate that the power is the maximum isotropically radiated power (EIRP) and require that stations in the Amateur service operating in this band shall not cause harmful interference to, or claim protection from, stations of the aeronautical radionavigation service or stations of the maritime service.

The footnotes also require that the amateur service shall ensure that no harmful interference is caused to the frequency 490 kHz which is used exclusively for the transmission by coast stations of navigational and meteorological and urgent information to ships.

The Test Licence held from ComReg by IRTS under which a number of licensed amateurs were given permission to operate in the band segment 501 to 504 kHz expired on 2 January 2013.

Licensed amateurs who had received such permission were contacted by the Society and required to cease operation on 501 to 504 kHz by Wednesday, 2 January at the latest.

The Society appreciates that ComReg has made this new allocation available to licensed radio amateurs from the earliest date possible under the WRC-12 decision.

By way of background, efforts by the IARU and its Member Societies throughout the world to secure an allocation in the region of 500 kHz go back quite some time and bore some fruit when it was agreed at WRC-07 to include on the agenda for WRC-11 (as it was then scheduled) the following item:

'to consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5

kHz to the Amateur service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services.'

IARU Societies throughout the world lobbied their Administrations to secure some facilities in the region of 500 kHz.

Following representations from the Society, ComReg in its Spectrum Management Strategy statement 2008-2010 of 1 July 2008 in setting out its strategy for Radio Experimenters over the following two years stated:

'Consider the allocation of spectrum around 500 kHz on the basis of a common European position'

By June 2009, ComReg had joined about eleven countries in Europe together with the USA, Canada and New Zealand that had granted some form of access to frequencies in the region of 500 kHz.

The effect of the efforts of IARU Member Societies in these countries, together with IARU International working through the Regional Telecoms Organisations and the ITU, cannot be overestimated in securing a positive outcome at WRC-12.

The next goal is a band in the region of 5 MHz which the IARU has secured as an agenda item for WRC-15.

The efforts of countries, like ourselves, in getting 5 MHz channels will hopefully help to secure a positive outcome on this objective also.

It does no harm to remind ourselves from time to time what has been secured for amateur radio by the work of the IARU and its Member Societies over the years, for example:

WRC 79 – New bands at 10, 18 and 24 MHz

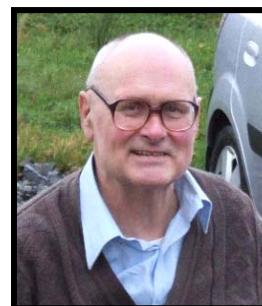
WRC-03 – Extension of the 7 MHz band by 100 kHz in Regions 1 and 3 of ITU

WRC-07 – New allocation at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz

WRC-12 – New allocation at 472 to 479 kHz

Lets work and hope for a new band at 5 MHz at WRC-15.

Silent Key John Riordan EI6IJ



It is with regret that we inform you of the death on Friday December 7th of John Riordan EI6IJ.

John had been ill for some time.

You will recall that John very generously donated a car and some radio equipment to the Society a number of years ago when he could no longer drive himself.

Last year, he donated some valuable radio equipment to the Cork Radio Club where he had studied for his licence.

He was buried in his adopted Buncrana, Co. Donegal.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to his family and friends.
May he rest in peace.

Silent Key Roy Cookman EI7H

We regret to inform you of the sudden death on Christmas Day of Roy Cookman EI7H of Churchtown in Dublin.

Born in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford in 1927, Roy served as a telegraphist in the Royal Navy during the Korean war and subsequently worked for Pye Telecommunications in Cambridge and for a while back in Dublin..

He then worked as a technician at Trinity College until his retirement.

He was first licensed in the early 1950's and mainly operated on CW and 2m FM

To his wife Betty, sons Leonard and Keith and daughter Valerie we extend our sincerest sympathy.

May he rest in peace.

Amateur Radio Emergency Network

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 December in Euro

	Note	2011	2010	2009	2008
Income	1				
under the organisation of and as part of the IRTS, and does not have any legal status distinct					
Gifts and Donations	2				
Cash		307.25	212.00	2,130.60	425.12
Non-cash		5,775.00	98.75	765.00	2,560.63
Subscriptions	3	500.00	715.00	450.00	0.00
Disposal of Equipment	4	470.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income		7,052.25	1,025.75	3,345.60	2,985.75
Expense	1				
Equipment and Supplies	2, 5	5,843.56	105.75	2,613.96	2,500.00
Insurance	3	330.00	543.84	286.00	0.00
Account Maintenance Fees		27.02	39.60	35.50	4.80
Identification Cards	3	0.00	0.00	202.60	0.00
Website Expense		0.00	60.38	0.00	113.75
Hire of Facilities		0.00	143.60	0.00	25.00
Other Expense		0.00	341.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expense		6,200.58	1,234.17	3,138.06	2,643.55
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		851.67	-208.42	207.54	342.20
Cash Balance at Beginning of Year	6	341.32	549.74	342.20	0.00
Cash Balance at End of Year	6	1,192.99	341.32	549.74	342.20

Amateur Radio Emergency Network

Notes to Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011

General

Amateur Radio Emergency Network ('AREN') is the voluntary public service emergency radio communications network run by the Irish Radio Transmitters Society ('IRTS'). AREN operates under the organisation of and as part of the IRTS, and does not have any legal status distinct from the IRTS. The IRTS has the legal status of 'unincorporated society.'

1 Accounting Policies

Accounts are prepared on a cash basis. Therefore, income and expense items are recognized in the year they are received/paid, even if they apply to a different year.

2 Gifts and Donations

Equipment and supplies donated to AREN are accounted for both as income received and as expense for equipment and supplies purchased, using the actual cost of the equipment if new or the estimated fair value if not new. Cash gifts during 2011 included €100 each received from Aherlow Failte and Waterford County Council.

Non-cash gifts consist of donated supplies and a large amount of equipment from An Garda Síochána

3 Subscriptions

Subscription fees were instituted during 2009 to defray the cost of insurance and identification cards for members. Insurance for 2011 reflected member cover for the full year.

4 Disposal of Equipment

A surplus donated HF transceiver, after being repaired, was sold.

5 Equipment and Supplies

Equipment and supplies were donated and purchased during 2011

6 Cash Balances

Cash accounts are held with Bank of Ireland and PayPal (Europe). Beginning and ending balances for 2011 are shown below.

	Bank of Ireland Account	PayPal Account	Total Cash Balance
Cash Balance at 01/01/2011	303.16	38.16	341.32
Cash Balance at 31/12/2011	1094.36	98.63	1192.99



HF Happenings

with Anthony Murphy EI2KC

2012 was a good year for us DXers, but if you'd been looking at sunspot numbers and not actually listening on the bands you'd never have thought it. While the number of DXpeditions and rare ones active during the year was good enough to keep us all happy, the sunspot numbers never came back up to the peaks they had reached during the second half of 2011. As we head into 2013, the year of the supposed sunspot peak, the numbers are not inspiring. Nevertheless, many of us will just carry on doing what we always do, listening on the bands without paying much heed to the numbers. If you were to base your operating practices around the sunspot numbers, there'd be many a day where you wouldn't have got out of bed! And you'd have missed good DX as a result!

Highlights of 2012

The highlights of the year would include some of the headline DXpeditions to rare entities, including for example 6O3A/6O0CW Somalia, 7O6T Yemen, HK0NA Malpelo, ZL9HR Campbell Island, D64K Comoros, NH8S Swains, PT0S St. Peter & Paul Rocks and 3D2C Conway Reef, but there were so many DXpeditions, mini DXpeditions, holiday-style activations and unexpected activations that we were, absolutely, spoilt for choice.

Take, for instance, just two examples of rare DX which was active throughout 2012 – JX9JKA Jan Mayen Island and RI1ANF South Shetland.

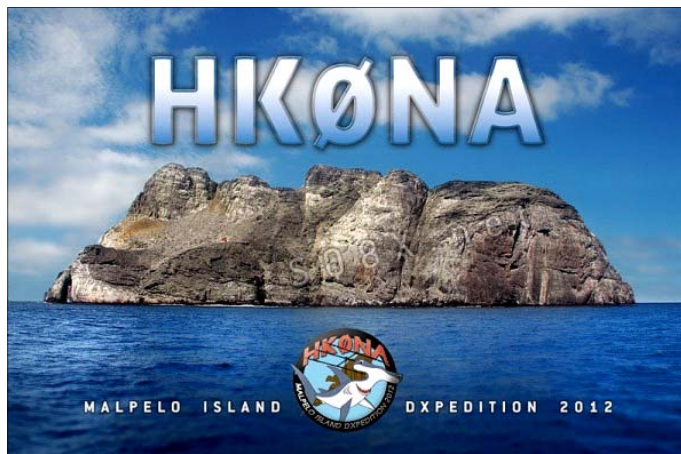
Svein LA9JKA arrived on Jan Mayen for a year-long stay last March and although not active on CW, he has been active on SSB up and down the bands, giving us a chance to log JX all the way from 80m up to 6m excluding 30m.

Two operators (Oleg UA1PBA/ZS1ANF) and Slava (ex UA1PAI) have been activating South Shetland under the call-sign RI1ANF since April 2012. This operation mostly uses CW, but there have been a few opportunities to catch them on digital modes and on SSB.

There were so many smaller activations and relatively rare DXCC on the bands that it would be difficult to mention them all here, but select examples would include: V5/DK1CE Namibia, XU7ACY Cambodia, 3B9/OE4AAC Rodriguez Island, JW/LZ2HM & JW/LZ1UQ Svalbard, 3DA0PW/3DA0FC/3DA0NJ Swaziland, VP2MSN Montserrat, 5H3MB/5H3EE Tanzania, ET3AA Ethiopia, A25KW/A25JR/A25DS Botswana, A35YZ Tonga, 5T0JL Mauritania, XV2RZ Vietnam, SV2ASP/A Mount Athos, JD1BMH Ogasawara, A52SV Bhutan, VP2V/NY6X (and several others during the year) British Virgin Islands, E40VB Palestine, FO4BM French Polynesia, S79RR Seychelles, D3AA Angola, HP1/IZ6BRN Panama, 9V1XX/9V1YC Singapore, 5W0XT Western Samoa, P29FR Papua New Guinea, VK9XS Christmas Island, VK9CS Cocos-Keeling Island, V73NS Marshall Islands, AH0KY (and several others) Northern Marianas, T8XX Palau, JG8NQJ/JD1 Minami Torishima, 3D2GC Fiji, RI1FJ Franz Josef Land, XX9THX Macao, EL2LF/EL2WS Liberia, 5X1NH Uganda, HV0A Vatican City, 5Z4FM Kenya, E51E South Cook Islands. And this is just a selection, showing the wide variety of DX from various parts of the world that was represented during 2012. There were lots of activations in particular from Africa and Oceania.

DX and DXpeditions in 2012

PJ4C: The year had hardly begun when the PJ4C DXpedition went into full swing from the island of Bonaire in the Caribbean, activated by the F6KOP team. Thanks to the fact that there is mainly ocean between EI and PJ4, this was a relatively easy one to pick up, and gave a great opportunity for those wishing to fill out slots, being active on SSB, CW and RTTY.



HK0NA: Overlapping with the PJ4C activation was HK0NA from Malpelo, one of the very rarest DXCC and at the time was number 12 on the most wanted DXCC listings. Conditions on Malpelo, which is basically a couple of giant rocks sticking out of the ocean, were challenging to say the least, but many of us were rewarded with a brand new DXCC. Again because of its location, Malpelo was not a particularly difficult one for EI operators, except for the fact that we were battling with the usual enormous pile-ups. The top EI, in fact, Trevor EI2GLB, was able to notch up 23 slots in total !

TN2T: Also in January, Congo was activated by six Belgian and Dutch operators using the callsign TN2T. No fewer than 49 EI callsigns were logged before they went QRT.

VP6T: Another of the "big ones" of 2012, also in January, was the VP6T DXpedition operating from Pitcairn Island in the Pacific Ocean. It was at the time the 41st most wanted DXCC. This one was more challenging to work from Ireland, due to distance and narrower propagation windows, but nonetheless 32 EIs made it into their log. I was particularly pleased to work them on 80 metres CW, with just one call, at 0848 on January 26th, one of the big highlights of 2012 for me.

HU2DX: A team consisting mainly of German operators activated YS El Salvador from late January into early February. YS is not in the top 100 most wanted DXCC but this operation was an opportunity to fill slots and, in my own case, to work YS on 40m and 80m, both on CW.

4U1WRC: This callsign was put on the air from ITU Geneva on the occasion of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2012.

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6O3A: Darko E70A was in Somalia in February to give many of us an opportunity to work a country that we never thought we'd see on the air, even if it was only in 40th on the most wanted list. Somalia is a country wracked by poverty and pirate bandits and most populated areas don't even have electricity. Quite a few of us punched the air when we worked Darko, giving plenty of us a brand new DXCC and a rare one at that.

ZK2C: A DXpedition to Niue for two weeks in February gave those DXers who enjoy a test a real challenge! The team managed to log over 48,000 QSOs – despite having to endure a cyclone – but the challenge was obviously too great for some Irish DXers because only 16 of us made it into their log!

PJ7PT: In March, a team of mainly Polish operators activated Sint Maarten in the Netherlands Antilles, one of the many islands in the Caribbean. 56 EI callsigns were logged.

3C0E/3C6A: This small operation by two Spanish hams was active first as 3C6A from Equatorial Guinea, before moving to Annobon Island off the western coast of Africa where the call sign was 3C0E. At the time Annobon Island was 32 on the most wanted list, and Equatorial Guinea 59th.

A25: A vacation DXpedition to Botswana by some US hams in March provided the opportunity to work this relatively rare African country.

A35YZ: Around the same time, Siegfried DL7DF and a team of operators were in Tonga in the South Pacific with the call sign A35YZ. This one was a challenge. I managed two QSOs. Without a Clublog-style league table, it's not easy to see how other Irish hams fared.

7P8PB: Our own Peter Ball, EI7CC, was in Lesotho again in the spring and of course is always happy to hear "EI" coming through the ether to this southern African country. I managed two QSOs with him, and it was a brand new DXCC for me when I worked him first. Peter later physically handed me a QSL card for our contacts at the Dundalk Amateur Radio Society-hosted IRTS AGM in Dundalk. What a great pleasure!

9M0L: In April a team of mainly Malaysian and Japanese hams activated Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. There were 34 EI callsigns in their log, among 41,688 QSOs.

7O6T: Heading into May, a previously unannounced DXpedition to one of the rarest countries, Yemen, kicked into action, prompting some of the biggest pile-ups in amateur radio history. At the time, Yemen was the 5th most wanted DXCC, behind P5 North Korea, KP1 Navassa, 3Y/B Bouvet and VK0/H Heard Island.

My own log reports that, somewhat unsurprisingly, I had to work for several hours on 17m CW to get my first QSO.

6O0CW: The I2YSB DXpedition team activated Somalia in May while on a humanitarian mission to that country. It enabled those of us who had worked 6O3A to fill out some slots and also allowed the SSB only operators to nab a few slots.

XX9E: Also in May, a team of mainly Spanish operators, joined by Adrian F5VLY, gave us an opportunity to work Macao, one of two special administrative regions in China. This



one proved particularly tough. Signals were either weak or non-existent most of the time. There is no Clublog so it's not easy to tell who came top of the EIs, but I only managed one slot and I don't think there were any EIs with more than two or three slots.

E40VB: Vlad UA4WHX, who can occasionally be heard as SU9VB from Egypt, visited Palestine in May 2012 and although not a DXpedition as such, his operation provided the opportunity for many DXers to bag this relatively unusual one. In particular those newer DXers who had missed E4X in 2010 were grateful for the chance to put Palestine in the log.

A5A: Another Bhutan activation straddled late May and early June. The FGC DX Group put A5A on the air and those who missed earlier operations were able to capitalise on this occasion. There were 49 EI calls in their log. Top of the pile was Don EI6IL with a commendable ten slots, followed by the Kilo Charlies, EI9KC and EI2KC, tied on seven apiece.

1A0C: The Sovereign Military Order of Malta, a Catholic lay order based in Rome, has its own unique DXCC designation. This activation in June was utilised by many Irish amateurs, a total of 58 callsigns from EI making it into the log. They were active on 50 MHz also, and quite a few of us managed to nab them on 6 metres.

CY9M: As summer progressed another nice one, and a relatively infrequent DXCC, came on the air. St. Paul Island, which is located between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, was at the time the 49th most wanted DXCC on DX Publishing's list. CY9M was active for a week from July 26th to August 1st. No fewer than 60 EI callsigns were successfully logged.

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D64K: A week later, Comoros Island off the eastern coast of Africa, was heard as the D64K DXpedition came on the air thanks to a group of European amateurs. 52 Irish hams made it through during this two-week activation. At the time of the DXpedition, Comoros was the 68th most wanted DXCC.

NH8S: One of the “big” DXpeditions of the year, and one of the most hotly anticipated, was the activation of Swains Island in the Pacific by an international team mainly consisting of American operators. NH8S came on air for about ten days in September and for many of us it was a brand new DXCC. There were 53 happy Irish hams at the end of it, the leaders being John EI7BA on ten slots, Trevor EI2GLB on 9 and EI8H and EI2KC tied on eight apiece.

5W: Not a DXpedition as such, but an activation by two American hams of 5W Samoa in September was an opportunity for those who did not have this DXCC to have a go. The callsigns used were 5W0XT and 5W0QQ.

T8XX: Again not a DXpedition, but a one-man activation of Palau (Belau) by Ulf DL5AXX in September 2012 which provided some SSB and CW slots for those who needed them.

3D2C: Conway Reef was the 46th most required entity when the 3D2C DXpedition kicked off in late September. This was another of the widely anticipated activations. They did not use Clublog so it's not convenient to find out who the league-toppers were. A log search facility is available at <http://www.yt1ad.info/3d2c/log.html>

5U5U: At around the same time, three operators led by Christian TL0A were visiting the African country of Niger, and activated it under three separate callsigns, 5U5U, 5U6E and 5U8NK.

TT8TT: The I2YSB DXpedition team were at it again in October when they went to Chad in Africa and operated under the callsign TT8TT. This was a relatively easy one for EIs to work and was a great chance to fill out the missing slots.

3B9SP: In October The Radio 7 Team, HB9FR, activated the island of Rodriguez in the Indian Ocean. This wasn't the easiest DX to work, as is evident by the lack of EI calls in the log – 22 in total. Top of the pile was Trevor EI2GLB with six slots.



The main antenna for the PT0S DXpedition to St. Peter & Paul Rocks in November. This is the antenna pictured at high tide. Isn't this just the perfect ground?

T30PY: Just as difficult, around the same time, was a DXpedition involving a Brazilian team to T30 Western Kiribati in the Pacific Ocean, which at that time was the 84th most sought-after DXCC entity. I managed only two slots, but I wasn't complaining as it was a brand new DXCC here. 25 Irish hams were happy to feature in the log, with Trevor EI2GLB tops with six slots. Well done Trevor.

P29VCX: Another October activation saw SM6CVX operate from Bougainville Island OC-135. P29 is not rare, but nonetheless several DXers were satisfied with an opportunity to perhaps fill out some slots.

CY0 Sable Island: Also in October, the long-awaited activation of Sable Island finally happened when WA4DAN and AA4VK finally landed on the island. This followed many disappointments over the previous two years as the mini DXpedition was postponed time and again for various reasons. The landing strip on Sable is effectively a beach, which had been under water on previous attempts. The pair were active mainly on the higher bands. It was a brand new one at this QTH and many other EIs were successful in putting this one into the log.

XX9: Another DXpedition to Macao in 2012 saw a small team of four Spanish ops head to this rare Chinese province, operating under four different callsigns: XX9THX, XX9TBM, XX9TFR and XX9TEX.



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PT0S: Another of the major, hotly anticipated activations of 2012 was the November DXpedition to St. Peter & Paul rocks in the Atlantic off Brazil. Because of its location across the ocean, it was not a difficult one for Irish operators to work, save for the big pile-ups and the QRM.

It was the 16th most required entity at the time. 41 of us were fortunate enough to make it through.

VK9-L: There was a brief activation of VK9-L Lord Howe Island by two Finnish operators also in November.

VK9/OH3JR and VK9/OH1VR gave some of us the chance to work slots, while other EIs worked it as a brand new one.

7P8D: In late November a group of South Africans, Germans and US operators put Lesotho on the air under the callsign 7P8D.

44 amateurs from Ireland were successful in working them.

5T0SP: Another late November activation, by a group of Polish hams, put the relatively rare African country of Mauritania on the air.

There is only one active ham in Mauritania, Jean 5T0JL, who is 84 years old ! This was a very long activation, lasting for about three weeks, giving everyone a good chance to work them. There are no fewer than 99 EI calls in their log.

ZL9HR: At number 15 in the most wanted list, ZL9 Campbell was certainly well sought-after, and the ZL9HR DXpedition was one of the biggest of 2012, beginning in early December. Campbell Island is the furthest place from Ireland, coinciding with the antipodes, the point opposite us on the globe.

But it turned out that working them wasn't as difficult as one might have thought. I was delighted with six slots, and I notice in my log a comment saying that I had worked them on two slots within ten minutes. Congrats to Ark EI9KC who was top of the EI pile with eight slots. Well done Ark !

PJ5J: Also in December, with Christmas only a couple of weeks away, a group of seven Japanese hams flew to Saint Eustatius in the Caribbean, operating under the callsign PJ5J. 24 of us made it into their log, and in fairness that wouldn't be too difficult given their location.

I would congratulate the leader, EI2KC with five slots, except that's me, and it might look like self indulgence if I did !!!

XU1A: With Cambodia not being a particularly rare one, and with Christmas shopping probably more of a priority, this late-in-the-year activation seems not to have interested too many of the DXers on this side of the world.

However, I was very glad to fill out some slots, and 25 of us were featured in the log. With me topping the pile on eight slots, there will again be no self-congratulations!

E51E: Worthy of a quick mention is our friend Norman, 5B4AIF, whose voice will be familiar to HFers and DXers all around the world as one of the most active radio hams on the planet.

Norman visited South Cook Islands over the winter time and 13 Irish hams were fortunate to have had their signals heard in that far-off corner of the South Pacific.

Congrats to Declan EI4GJB who managed five slots in total, all on SSB. Well done Declan!

Special Callsigns

2012 was, of course, the year of the 80th anniversary of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS), and to celebrate, a special callsign **EI80IRTS** was put on the air throughout the year. A special gold certificate for those who worked EI80IRTS on eight bands was sponsored by Dundalk Amateur Radio Society.

I had the pleasure of running a few pile-ups with this callsign late in the year and even then the pile-ups were considerable at times. Congratulations to all involved in keeping the callsign active, and helping to promote the society abroad.

Congrats in particular to Ger EI4GXB for maintaining the logs and to Thos EI2JD who will manage the awards.

There is a bronze certificate for those who worked the call on three bands, and a silver cert for five bands.

European Championships: It might have been a dreadful time for the Irish soccer squad, but the European Championships in Poland and Ukraine in June saw many special callsigns emanating from both those countries, many containing '2012' in the call.

Personal highlights

As I headed into 2012, I had worked 243 DXCC. As I head into 2013, I have worked 281. So 2012 gave me 38 new DXCCs – not bad considering that conditions were hardly optimum!!

I probably should have taken my QSO with V5/DK1CE on New Year's Day last year as a good omen – he was my 100th DXCC worked on 80 metres!

There were some personal highlights for me in 2012, of which I will mention just one: Greg VK1AI visited Solomon Islands in October and operated under the callsign H44PA. I was quite surprised, nay astonished, to hear a strong signal from him one morning on 17m CW. Furthermore, he was working simplex and had no great pile calling him. So I gave him a call and pretty soon I was in the log. I managed to capture part of the QSO on video, so thrilled was I with this new one. You can see that video on YouTube by searching for "EI2KC works H44PA in the Solomon Islands" if you wish to see it.

Another highlight was working Svein JX9JKA on every band from 40m through 6m. And I have to mention V73NS in Marshall Islands which was another new one in September.

Other great new DX that found its way into my log included VK9XS and VK9CS, Christmas Island and Cocos-Keeling respectively, as well as 5W0XT Samoa and JG8NQJ/JD1 Minami Torishima, among others.

Forthcoming DX

Before we part company for this edition, I must bring to your attention some forthcoming DX and DXpeditions. I'm not sure how 2013 could possibly match 2012 for the amount of rare DX, but let's see what the new year brings. This year is supposed to bring a peak in sunspots. That doesn't look like happening right now, but we will keep an ear out on the bands nonetheless.

V63 Micronesia: JA1XGI (Haru) plans to be operational from Micronesia again as V63XG from April 3rd to 11th.

VK9N Norfolk Island: Lee, VK3GK will be active from Norfolk Island OC-005, as VK3GK/9 between January 11-15, 2013. This will be a holiday type DXpedition as it's his 21st

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wedding anniversary. Activity planned on 80m-10m. Mainly SSB, but CW is possible, using IC-7000, Multiband vertical and 80-10m OCF Dipole.

ST2 Sudan: Samual, K0YAK (ex-9N7AK) will be active from Khartoum, Sudan as ST2SF beginning late January 2013 and continuing through at least mid-April. Plan is for SSB, CW and data operations on 40-10m, maybe also 80 and 6m. Further details to follow. QSL via K0YAK or LoTW.

9X Rwanda: Carl, SM6CPY will be active holiday-style from Rwanda as 9X0PY between January 15-31, 2013. He will try to be active all bands depending on antenna possibilities. Mainly CW (listen up 25), 100w.

VK9L Lord Howe Island: From January 11-18, 2013 the following operators will be active from the Blue Lagoon, Lord Howe island.

Calls used will be: JA3ARJ/VK9L via JA3ARJ; JA3BZO/VK9L via JA3BZO; JA3HJI/VK9L via JA3HJI; AE6XY/VK9L via JA1CJA; W7AVO/VK9L via JA3AVO; W7PBL/VK9L via JH3PBL.

They will be QRV on 80-6m, CW, SSB, RTTY.

A31 Tonga: Werner, DJ9KH plans to be active from Tonga between February 20 – March 3, 2013.

He will be QRV from Tongatapu OC-049 as A31WH and A31WH/P from Vava'u OC-064. QSL via home call.

9U Burundi: A team of nine Belgian operators will activate Burundi from 14th to 23rd February using the callsign 9U4U. More information at <http://www.9u4u.be>

FO-C Clipperton Island: In March an international team of amateurs will activate Clipperton Island, a deserted island in the eastern Pacific, using the callsign TX5K.

Clipperton is the 44th most wanted DXCC on the current Clublog listings.

Many of us will be working it for the first time. All going well, they will be QRV from February 28th until March 10th.

They plan to have as many as seven stations on the go simultaneously, and they hope to have a real-time log online.

For more information visit <http://www.cordell.org/CI/>

PY0F Fernando de Noronha: Leo, PP1CZ will be active from Fernando de Noronha as PY0F/PP1CZ between January 15-21, 2013. He will focus on 80 & 160m. QSL via home call.

XT Burkina Faso: The I2YSB Italian DXpedition team will be QRV from this African country for 15 days from February 21st to March 6th with the callsign XT1T.

They plan to be operational on all bands and all modes.

Happy New Year

That's about it for this issue folks. Due to the review of 2012, I have no space for contributions this month, but will be very glad to receive your input for the next instalment.

Until then, can I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year and Best DX for 2013!

Slán go foil,
Anthony EI2KC

Dave EI9FBB on his travels again



The F6KOP, Radio Club de Provins team will be QRV from Uganda signing 5X8C from February 6th to the 18th. Previously QRV as 5H1C, J5C, PJ4C, XT2C, TS7C, TO7C, TK7C, 5V7C to name a few, this multi-national team will run 6 high power stations simultaneously on all bands/modes from 160m to 10m.

Unfortunately 6m is not allowed by the UCC (Uganda Communications Commission).

IRTS member, Dave Deane, EI9FBB is a team member on this DXpedition and I'm sure he'll pay special attention to getting as many EI's as possible into the log.

See: <http://www.5x2013.com> for full information and OQRS



John EI7GN/HS0ZJX pictured saying goodbye to his tower and Tennadyne Log Periodic. John is permanently emigrating to Thailand. We wish him well.

Mayo Radio Experimenters Network

The following officers were elected at the AGM.

Chairman :	Padraic Baynes EI9JA
Secretary	Brendan Minish EI6IZ
Treasurer	Adrian Healy EI2HAB
P.R.O.	John Walsh EI5GHB
QSL Manager	Brendan Minish EI6IZ
IRTS Rep.	Adrian Healy EI2HAB
Rally Director	Padraic Baynes EI9JA

The 5 MHz Newsletter

The latest edition of *The 5 MHz Newsletter* is now available.

It is a combined Autumn/Winter edition, as we have been awaiting news of the new 5 MHz frequencies from Ofcom and these are of course featured in the *Newsletter*, in addition to articles on the latest WRC 2015 5 MHz agenda item preparation, a design for a short coaxial 5 MHz antenna for G3ENI together with the usual beacon spot, this time featuring GB3RAL.

The 5 MHz Newsletter may be accessed from Google Drive/Documents at <http://tinyurl.com/cu3s3hx>, or in the 'External Links' section of the Wikipedia 60 Meter Band page or in the 5 MHz section of the Southgate Ham Forum (note that you may need to register in order to download a copy)

5 MHz 'Sunset' Net Changes Frequency

The popular Sunday evening 'Sunset' Net on 5 MHz is changing frequency. The net, which as its name implies, meets around UK sunset time on Sunday evenings to compare propagation with that during the 5 MHz GB2RS News earlier the same day has for some time met on the UK's 5371.5 kHz channel.

Following a number of reception reports from Amateurs in the Republic of Ireland, the net participants have decided to move the Sunset Net's frequency to **5398.5 kHz (with a backup of 5278.5 kHz), beginning Sunday 18th November** as both these latter two channels are available to EI Amateurs, whereas 5371.5 kHz is not.

We hope that more EI Amateurs with 5 MHz experimental licences will join us here in the future and indeed welcome all wishing to participate.

West Tyrone Amateur Radio Club (WTARC) present a cheque for £1,000 to Brian McCluskey, N.I. Chest Heart & Stroke.



The money was raised through a club BBQ held in the GortIn Glens in September. The event was in memory of the late Charles McCrystal GI6DCC, a founding member of the WTARC and a lifelong amateur radio enthusiast.

Pictured from L to R; Sean Rafferty GI0EJT, Treasurer; Karl McCrystal, son of Charlie; Eddie McCrystal GI7FHZ, Chairman; Paul Floyd MI6BII, Event Organiser and Brian McCluskey, N.I. Chest Heart & Stroke.

Missing from the photo are event sponsors Rodger Latamer, Seskinore Meats; Ann Howe, Culmore Diner. Colleen Heaney, Asda Store, Omagh.

EI13CLAN

As you may be aware, 2013 sees a major event entitled 'The Gathering' being promoted both at home and abroad to engage with the Irish Diaspora around the globe. This is a 32 county, cross boarder, initiative and given the unique ability of Amateur Radio to communicate so effectively, the Society will support the initiative by way of a variety of events and programmes during the year. We will announce particulars early in the new year by way of bulletins on the radio news service, a dedicated page on the IRTS website and of course in Echo Ireland.

ComReg has issued to the Society a special event callsign 'EI 13 CLAN' which will be active through out the year, much as our 'EI 80 IRTS' call was used in 2012.

We expect that the callsign will generate quite a lot of interest from overseas operators, particularly in the U.S., who have Irish roots, so if there are any members who have a particular interest in genealogy and who would be willing to assist with any such queries please contact Seamus EI8BP, or any member of the committee.

Any member wishing go on air with EI13CLAN should contact Dave EI6AL at dave.ei6al@gmail.com or by phone on 0861000000.



Irish Radio Transmitters Society

81st Annual General Meeting, Annual Dinner & Rally

Hosted by Shannon Basin Radio Club
at The Shamrock Lodge Hotel, Athlone

April 27/28th 2013

Contact Brian EI8IU at brianei8iu@eircom.net or on 086-2514822



Mayo Rally 2012

The annual Mayo Rally held in The Welcome Inn in Castlebar on Sunday November 18th last was again another triumph for the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network.

There are no other rally organisers who put in the amount of preparation and work that the Mayo crew do.

The physical set up is outstanding and despite the fact that the venue is on the first floor of the hotel, traders had no complaints about the lack of manpower to get their equipment in and out.

Other rally organisers should travel for lessons.

The accommodation offer at the hotel was great value, B & B together with the main course from the evening meal menu for €50.00.

Two lectures were scheduled for the Saturday evening and both were very well supported.

Thos EI2JD took the floor at 1900 and gave an entertaining talk on contesting. John EI7BA was next on stage with a talk on DXing and tips and tricks on working the rare ones.

The doors to the rally opened at 1100 and there was quite a queue waiting.

A feature of the Mayo rally is the bring and buy and other rally organisers would do well to duplicate the Mayo effort.

All the usual traders were present and seemed to be doing good business all day.

There was a raffle on the door tickets and the lucky winner was Michael Barrett.

The hotel offered excellent service with good food available and tea and coffee available for the early morning visitors, something not always available at other venues.

It is very annoying to arrive after an early morning start and a long drive to be told that nothing is available until the bar opens at 1230.

Congratulations to Padraic Baynes EI9JA and his team for another great event.



John EI7BA, Dave EI8BEB, Brendan EI7CS



Gerry EI4GD, Shauna EI1588, Adrian Healy EI2HAB



Derek EI7CHB,
James GI0OND/EI2JY



Bill EI5FY



Michael MI5MTC, Billy 2I0ETB



Youngsters on the Air 2013

During the summer of 2013, a youth radio camp "Youngsters on the Air" will be held in Estonia, organized by Estonian Radio Amateurs Union.

The IRTS are considering sending a Youth team to Estonia for Youngsters On The Air 2013.

During this week teams of young radio amateurs from 10 different European countries will be participating during different activities: presentations, contesting, visiting radio stations, observatory, etc...

As two previous events in Romania and Belgium/Netherlands have shown, it will be a great experience for the young hams which they will never forget.

When: 5-12 August 2013

Participants: 10 teams from different European member associations of IARU Region 1.

A team consists of a team leader, who could be an older person and 4 team members aged between 14-25 years.

Anyone interested should contact:
Ger McNamara EI4GXB,
IRTS Youth coordinator
087-2532512

Galway Radio Experimenters Club

The Galway Radio Experimenters Club's Annual General Meeting was held in the Anno Santo Hotel, Salthill on Sunday 11th November.

The following were elected:

Chairman;	Larry EI9CN
Secretary;	Damian EI2HG
Treasurer;	Tom EI3ER

Committee members:
Aengus EI4ABB
Tycho EI9EXB

Tom EI3ER gave a very interesting lecture on the Clifden Marconi site.

Tipperary Amateur Radio Group AGM.

On Wednesday the 7th of November 2012 last, members of the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group met at Raheen House Hotel at 8.30pm for their 18th Annual General Meeting.

This was a well attended meeting with group members travelling from Counties Kilkenny, Waterford, Limerick and Cork to join their County Tipperary based colleagues.

Paul EI3ENB chaired this very productive meeting with John EI7IG reading the minutes from last years AGM.

The group treasurer Thomas EI2IT reported a healthy financial situation for this amateur radio group which was formed in October 1994.

A review of the year and the group activities were then discussed at length.

Particular praise was given to Eddie EI3FFB for reading the weekly IRTS news every Sunday evening at 8.30pm on 145.450MHz FM. Eddie provides a valuable service for the group and his efforts were very much appreciated.

The new committee was elected for the coming year and the meeting concluded at 11.30pm when Paul EI3ENB thanked all for their input and efforts in attending this most important event of the calendar year for TARG.

The new committee was elected as follows:-

Chairman-	Paul Norris EI3ENB
Vice Chairman -	Eddie Kavanagh EI3FFB
Secretary -	John Ronan EI7IG
Treasurer -	Thomas Hallinan EI2IT
PRO -	Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI

IRTS Technical Panel

The IRTS has launched a new service for amateur radio operators in Ireland.

In our ongoing endeavours to engage more fully with amateurs we have identified an area we feel could be of significant benefit to them. What is it?

The IRTS Technical Panel is a group of volunteers who have expertise in, or experience of, different aspects of amateur radio.

Our aim is to help radio amateurs with technical or operational problems.

What types of problems do we handle?

We don't have a definitive list; however, here are some of the issues that we would have some expertise in:-

- Antennas (e.g. best antenna for a given location, matching antennas to rigs)
- Station operation (e.g. TVI, RF in the shack)
- Sourcing components (e.g. "where can I get toroids?")
- IT issues (e.g. logging programs, rig interfacing, LoTW uploads)

How do I ask a question?

Send your question to irtstech@irts.ie.

Provide as much information as possible, including details of attempts already made to deal with the issue in question.

How do I get an answer?

Your query via irtstech@irts.ie will be distributed to all the members of the Technical Panel and the resolution to the query e-mailed to you.

The Future ...

In time we plan to compile a database of questions and answers from our correspondence. This database could be the first port of call in resolving a query.

Who is on the technical panel?

Good question ... maybe you?

Currently, we are assembling a panel of experts on all the topics likely to arise. We need more volunteers; if you can help, please send your details to irtstech@irts.ie.

Jim Holohan EI4HH is the co-ordinator of the Technical Panel.



The Radio Officers' Association

Marine, Aeronautical and Coast Station Radio Officers

Dear reader,

The marine Radio Officer was a profession that lasted for about 100 years and sadly died just before the end of the 20th century. In 1995 The Radio Officers' Association was formed to try and keep the memory of the profession alive and a fledgling quarterly journal 'QSO' was created. It turned out that the rather rudimentary first edition blossomed into something much more substantial and it also transpired that we had some good authors in our ranks. The stories that were written in each edition achieved two main objectives; firstly, we were providing our current readership and future generations with a tangible record of our experiences. Secondly, we were providing ourselves with some wonderful nostalgia for a period that many of us, me included, regard as the happiest days of our working lives.

Some three years or so ago we discussed at our Annual General Meeting that we had many members who were not on board in 1995 and they would have missed many of the excellent stories published over the years. Why not create a "Best of QSO" was the thinking. Everyone thought this was a great idea and the immediate past editor of QSO, the current editor of QSO and myself were chosen as the sacrificial lambs to get the project underway. If we knew then what we know now Many hundreds of hours later the book has been printed and it would be fair to say the road has not been entirely smooth. We changed the title to be more representative and we decided to make the book our legacy as there is very little in print concerning the history of our profession.

The contents cover the experiences of our members from the 1930's on to the tough times of World War 2, through to hard working trawlers, tramp ships, cargo liners and tankers in the 1960's and onward to passenger ship memories through the decades. We have tried to reflect the world geographic experiences of the Radio Officer with memories of what was the dreaded two years on the Indian Coast with Marconi's, the tough working conditions on non air conditioned ships and some of the fun times with the lengthy spells on the New Zealand coast, plus many more. The writers are predominantly British and Irish Radio Officers who served under the Red Ensign in what was at the time the largest merchant fleet in the world. This reflects the profile of our membership, although, we do regularly publish stories from members who do not fit into either of the above categories.

Although for obvious reasons this book reflects the maritime experiences of Radio Officers I think and hope it will provide an entertaining read for people interested in maritime history and nostalgia as well. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Tony Selman
Chairman

This hard back book, limited to 600 copies, costing €25.00 (inclusive of post and packaging) is available from:

Colman J. Shaughnessy,
Vice-Chairman,
Radio Officers Association,
11 Lakeside Park,
LOUGHREA
Co. Galway.

Mobile 086-2489319.

E-mail: Shaughnessy@eircom.net.

The Life and Times of the RADIO OFFICER

1900 - 2000

The Long Silence Falls...



**Lough Erne
Amateur Radio Club**

**Annual Rally
The Share Holiday
Village,
Lisnaskea,
County Fermanagh
BT92 0EQ**

**Sunday
1st April 2012**

Bring & Buy,
Caravan Park,
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www.lougherneradioclub.co.uk/

International Lighthouse Weekend

More than 110 entries so far.

Jim Linton, VK3PC, reports that the leading countries pre-registered for the next International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend are Germany with, Australia with 27, followed by the USA and England.

In fact a total of 110 pre-registrations have been received from 26 countries even though the next International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend does not take place until the August the 17th and 18th.

More about this fun event is on-line at www.illw.net

To date only one EI entry is listed. That is EI0CAR/P from Inishowen Head West/Strove Lighthouse.

AREN (Amateur Radio Emergency Network) North East

Santa Run, Drogheda, Sunday, 9th Dec. 2012.

This event consisted of a short “run” or jog through the streets of Drogheda by lots of people dressed as Santa, in aid of charity. Initially we had been told the event would start at Fair Green, but upon arrival at Clarke’s pub to chat with the organisers on the day, Anthony EI2KC and Pat EI2HX were informed the starting point was in Fair Street. However, the route was not changing except with the addition of Fair Street.

The route was as follows:

Westward along Fair Street as far as the junction with George’s Street, turning left into George’s Street and left again into Narrow West Street. From there, the race would proceed along West Street as far as the Tholsel, where runners would hang a left into Shop Street and proceed across Mary Street, turning left into South Quay and from there to the finishing point at the Scotch Hall shopping centre.

Six volunteers were available on the day: Anthony EI2KC, Pat EI2HX, Sean EI4IP, Jim EI2HJB, Seamus EI3KE and Ben EI4IN.

It was decided upon chatting with organiser Brian Browning that pedestrian portable stations would be set up at key junctions along the route. It was also decided that each station would be called “Santa 1”, “Santa 2” etc., and that AREN Control would be called “Santa Control”.

The following positions were allocated by Anthony EI2KC, who was acting as Santa Control on the day:

Santa 1: Junction of Fair Street/George’s Street: Sean EI4IP.

Santa 2: Junction of George’s Street/West Street: Jim EI2HJB

Santa 3: Junction of West Street and Shop Street (Tholsel)
Seamus EI3KE

Santa 4: Junction of Shop Street and North Quay: Ben EI4IN

Santa 5: Junction of St. Mary’s Bridge and South Quay:
Pat EI2HX

Frequency to be used was the AREN National 2 metre frequency on 144.525FM. Control equipment used was a Kenwood TM-V71A dual band transceiver using 25 watts into a quarter wave whip on a magmount. Also used were the Motorola GP360 hand held radios supplied by AREN, these were on 144.525 also.

A 446 MHz radio was given to organiser Brian Browning so that he could maintain contact with the AREN group through EI2KC.

The AREN group assembled in Fair Green, where Anthony EI2KC assigned positions to the volunteers. Ideally, the organisers would have liked the junction of Duke Street and West Street to be covered, but we had insufficient volunteers. However, this didn’t matter in the end as the event was well controlled. EI2KC tested the UHF handheld with Brian Browning and communications were established.

Then the AREN members were told to go to their positions, as the organiser wanted us all in place by 1330.

EI2KC (Santa Control) took up position in his car in Fair Street, a few hundred metres from the starting point. Then each of the AREN volunteers reported when they were in position as follows: Santa 1, 13:27hrs; Santa 2, 13:27; Santa 3, 13:31; Santa 4, 13:35; Santa 5: 13:36.



Sean EI4IP, Jim EI2HJB, Ben EI4IN, Pat EI2HX, Seamus EI3KE



Jim EI2HJB and Anthony EI2KC

For information purposes, Santa Control contacted each post to find out what race marshals and Garda Síochána numbers were located at each junction. Santa 1 reported there were two marshals at his junction. Santa 2 reported two Gardaí and three marshals at his location. Santa 3 said there were no Gardaí or marshals at the Tholsel junction. Santa 5 reported there were four marshals and two Gardaí at his location.

The AREN volunteers were asked to re-group at the Fair Green for equipment handover and debriefing. All transceivers plus any high-vis vests that had been handed out were returned to Pat EI2HX.

The event was over quite quickly, mainly on account of the short route. The AREN volunteers had proven of great assistance to the race marshals as they had been unaware of the early start time, and were able to be ready to help manage traffic etc. when the race got under way. It was an enjoyable event for all concerned, and the weather, although cool and a bit breezy, was dry and sunny.

Report compiled by Anthony EI2KC.

EI6HB in EA8 land

I have been going to Lanzarote for quite a few years and got to know a few amateur radio operators on the island. The island has quite a number of active radio hams who can be heard on the bands very often.

When I began going there on holidays in the early 2000's I became very friendly with Arturo EA8UL (now silent key). Arturo had his station at the bottom of the runway at Lanzarote airport and his antenna masts were as good as any ILS system for pilots landing on Lanzarote's 35 runway.

Many's the hour I spent in his shack looking at and taking photographs of aircraft landing as he had a birds eye view of the landing path while also operating from his very accomplished shack. He was very proud of his equipment and none more so than his Amcom linear amp which seldom got a rest as Arturo liked his call to be heard clearly, Echo Alpha Ocho Uniform Lima.

Sadly Arturo went to his eternal reward a few short years ago and his station has now been disassembled.

Being an avid listener as well as an operator I was checking 20 metres at home one evening and I heard a very strong signal coming out of EA8. Turning my beam his signal went to 5 9 ++ as he chatted to a German station.

On completion of his contact I called EA8CBV (Sam) and he replied immediately. We exchanged pleasantries and continued our QSO with information about our stations. I let him know of my friend EA8UL death in May of that year and while Sam didn't know him personally he knew his sister who was also very active as a YL operator in EA8.

I had often heard Arturo talking about his sister who is a past President of EA8RCL, Union De Radio Aficionados De Arrecife.

We chatted for quite a while and said our 73 eventually. We met on the air again about a month or six weeks later and had another long QSO.

On one of my holidays to Lanzarote I met Sam and he gave me a guided tour of his shack where he operates a vertical antenna from his flat roof. Sam has a "mat" of radials on the flat roof to act as his ground plane and it does work as his signal is exceptionally strong.

Sam has always been asking me to attend his club and last October I eventually made it. Some members of his club attended



Denis EI6HB operating EA8RCL



Photo: Sam EA8CBV, President EA8RCL presents a certificate to Denis EI6HB with Felix EA8BBJ, Secretary EA8RCL on his visit to the club QTH on Lanzarote.

and as Sam is the current President of EA8RCL he made me feel most welcome in his introduction.

All the members have good English and a really good night was had by all. A most sociable club is EA8RCL.

At the conclusion of the meeting Sam and Felix EA8BBJ presented me with a certificate to mark my visit. Much appreciated.

Denis EI6HB

IRTS Radio News Service

Items for inclusion in the IRTS Radio News and/or the Echo Ireland Newsletter can be sent by email to

newsteam@irts.ie

Deadline for inclusion in the Sunday news bulletin is 1200 on Thursday.

Urgent items can be telephoned to the Editor,

Aidan EI7JC on 085-7100511

Limerick Radio Club Annual Rally

**Sunday 3rd March 2012
Radisson Blu Hotel Limerick.**

Doors open at 11am and admission is €.

All the usual traders will be present.

Bring and Buy tables are free of charge and will be allocated on a first come basis.

They can be booked by contacting

Ger McNamara EI4GXB on 087 2532512 or ei4gxb@gmail.com

The Good Old Days

Dave EI6AL Remembers operating G3SPS/MM

Clearing out some old files the other day, I came across some editions of the RSGB Bulletin going back to 1965. Buried in the "Four Metres and Down" section was a reference to G3SPS/MM which brought back a lot of memories...

I guess a lot of our interests in life go back to childhood, and I suspect my interest in Radio can be traced back to my father. He was a civil engineer with CIE, living in Mallow, and my first exposure to Radio was a framed poster dated 1924 that hung in our house. The poster, now well faded, was an invitation to a "Wireless Demonstration using a five valve receiving apparatus" that was being held in the Shortcastle Hall, Mallow. The lecture was being given by Dermot O'Connor, my father, who had also built the receiver. It was probably one of the first radio receivers seen by the public in Mallow at the time, and hopefully justified the 1/- shilling entrance fee. Being a wise man, he hedged his bets on the outcome with a statement at the bottom of the poster stating "atmospherics and spark transmissions may occasionally interfere with wireless reception. The promoters will do their best" I suspect that was a carefully worded disclaimer that there would be no refunds in the event of QRM.

Many years later, having completed my Radio Operators course in the radio school in Harcourt Street (part of Kevin Street College) I went to sea, initially with Marconi but then under contract with BP Tankers. In 1964 I got my EI6AL licence and when on leave was on air using a kit-built KW Vanguard with 50W AM or CW, a five valve Lafayette HF receiver and a G5RV.

Later that year I applied to the British Posts and Telegraphs for a licence to operate /MM. They came back with a licence under the call G3SPS/MM for operation on 2m only, subject to permission of the captain. This was never a problem - sparks was always regarded as slightly odd on board, and as most captains hadn't a clue what I was talking about when requesting permission it was granted without asking too many questions. The equipment was a home brew 2m transceiver running 25W on a good day, using

a QQV03-A and a 4el Yagi. Modulation was clamp-tube to save the weight of a plate transformer - everything had to be hauled in a suitcase by sea and train when joining or leaving a ship - no air travel for RO's in those days. There was a separate power supply, another few pounds to carry, and heaviest of all was the DC/AC convertor. All the tankers I served on were 110VDC so I needed the convertor to get AC, and in those days they did the job with a vibrator unit oscillating at roughly 50cs, enclosed in a metal sound-proof can to try and dampen the racket, and the resultant AC (or more accurately on/off DC) fed to a transformer to get an approximate 220V AC out. The TX was crystal controlled on 145.78, but I later received a crystal for 145.3 from an operator who complained he couldn't QSO on my original frequency and would I please change!

There were a number of problems in operating 2m at sea. I had no idea where we were likely to be sailing, but fortunately the first ship I operated /MM was the British Seafarer and most of the time she sailed around Europe and the Mediterranean. Before calling CQ I would have to check the chart to see when the next change of course was due, as the Yagi was fixed to a pole above my cabin and had to be manually swung if we changed direction. It was not unusual to ask a station to QRX while I went up with a spanner to reset the Yagi. Most QSOs were made to stations in the UK and stations all around northern Europe and Scandinavia. There was a further problem when sailing in the Mediterranean, where many contacts were made with Italian stations.

Unfortunately, as soon as I called CQ most stations swung their antenna to the NW thinking there was an opening to the UK, so I promptly lost them. However, it was an interesting time and it became quite a regular event to see a local amateur waiting on the quay when we arrived in port to take me back to their QTH or show me around the town.

Interesting days, and the old RSGB magazines make interesting reading. Especially the prices....

Dave EI6AL

Extract from RSGB Bulletin May 1965

On March 25, G3SPS/MM was worked for the first IMM. The vessel was moving up past the Isle of Man towards the Clyde.

The QSO was partly worked /M to jMM! On the same evening the /MM was worked /M for G3SPS's first GI and also GIIIM. GD3FOC has made an appearance on 145.23 Mc/s from Castletown; and worked GBSLI for his first ever 211 \QSO on March 25. He is using an SCR522 (10 watts).

The period under review, although dull at first from the propagation point of view, brightened up considerably towards the end. G3SPS/MM created quite a stir while steaming down the North Sea, Thames Estuary and English Channel, eventually up to the Clyde and returning down the west coast en route for the Middle East.

Perhaps the last contact with him locally was made by F8VQ (Boulogne) when he was off Lands End.

The evening of March 27 will be remembered by the West Country stations as one of those days when they had excellent conditions east and west.

Amateur Radio Balloons Recovered in Morocco and Mississippi

Amateur radio high altitude balloons **K6RPT-12** and **N0D** have been recovered in Morocco and Mississippi.

K6RPT-12 was launched from California on December 3 at 0126 UT, successfully crossed North America and the Atlantic, and landed in Morocco on December 5 at 0923 UT.

On Christmas Day Ron K6RPT announced that his California Near Space Project payload had been recovered by a team of French and Moroccan amateur radio operators in Morocco on December 23.

More details and pictures at www.californianearspaceproject.com/cns_p-18.html

N0D (BLT-32) was launched late on December 15 but the balloon burst over Mississippi the following day.

Good DX 2012?

Joe Ryan, EI7GY

Those of us who are interested in DXing will have looked forward to better propagation in 2012 for the higher frequency bands. Were these expectations met? ... I guess the answer depends on who you ask!

Propagation

While we know that the Sun influences all radio communications beyond ground-wave or line-of-sight ranges, the ways in which the Sun influences propagation are quite varied. However, if we are looking for a single number to indicate good DX conditions—especially on the very useful 10m, 12m and 15m bands—we tend to think of the Sunspot Number.

The chart opposite, which uses data from SIDC in Belgium, tells an interesting story: while the *Annual Average Sunspot Number* (the blue line) was slightly higher in 2012 than in the previous year, the line showing the *Monthly Average Sunspot Number* (red line) reminds us that in 2012 we did not have the sustained peaks in sunspot numbers that we enjoyed during the Autumn of 2011.

While we might feel that Autumn 2012 was a disappointment from a propagation point of view, it is interesting to see that John EI7BA managed to work 200 DXCC entities in September 2012 just on the 6 metre, 10 metre, 12 metre and 15 metre bands (Chiltern DX Club HF Challenge).

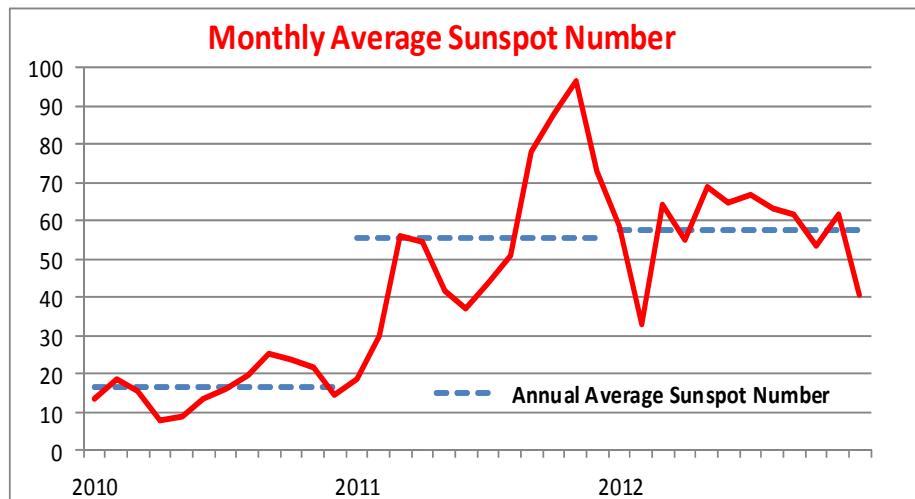
What are Sunspots?

Magnetic fields are produced in the Sun by the flow of electrically charged ions and electrons. Sunspots are places where very intense magnetic lines of force break through the Sun's surface. The sunspot cycle results from the recycling of magnetic fields by the flow of material in the interior.

DXpeditions

You either love these or hate them! They offer us great opportunities to work rare DX on many bands, but they do occupy a lot of bandwidth (some exceptionally wide splits were heard this year) and give rise to a certain amount of mayhem on the bands.

We had our fair share of DXpeditions in 2012, with at least 7 of the top-20 "Most Wanted" on the air during the year, some of these operations being major DXpeditions.



The year started off with a bang, with a large team of South American and North American radio amateurs activating Mapelo Island (#12 in DX Magazine's "Most Wanted") from 10th January to early February.

In terms of QSO totals, the DXpedition in May to Socotra Island, Yemen (Yemen being #5 Most Wanted) was second only to Mapelo and most welcome by the DXing community. Socotra had the added attraction of being a particularly rare island group for IOTA purposes.

Other major DXpeditions to "Most Wanted" entities included the PT0S DXpedition to St. Peter and St. Paul Rocks and the recent activation of New Zealand's Campbell Island (ZL9HR).

The "DX News" in the weekly radio news (submitted by Peter EI7CC) and this journal's "HF Happenings" column by Anthony EI2KC kept us posted on current and forthcoming DX activations during the year.

Why worry about Sunspots?

The number of sunspots has a considerable effect on the levels of radiation emitted from the Sun, which in turn has an effect on the Earth's ionosphere, higher levels of radiation in general being good for HF propagation. However, sunspots can also produce solar flares or solar wind, with negative effects on propagation for some bands.

DXCC Award Programme

Not all DXers are interested in awards, however for those that are, the ARRL DXCC Award Programme is by far the best known. The basic award is for confirming 100 entities worked, while the top award—the "Honor Roll"—involves confirmation from at least 331 of the 340 current entities.

The award totals for EI call sign holders participating in the DXCC programme are shown at www.irts.ie/dxcc. Currently there are 71 EI call signs on the DXCC list, up from 55 at the end of 2011.

However, we don't have just 71 DXers in EI, as looking around the blogosphere it is clear that quite a few EIs are working plenty of DX, but have chosen not to seek DXCC awards.

Working 100 DXCC entities

The criteria for the DXCC list mean that there are far more DXCC entities than there are countries: the UN has less than 200 member states, whereas the DXCC list contains 340 entities. This makes reaching the magic "100" relatively easy.

Europe includes 60 DXCC entities with a resident population of radio amateurs or regular visits from radio amateurs. Asian, North African and Middle Eastern countries bordering on Europe include at least 20 entities with frequent amateur radio activity, while a similar number of entities from North, Central and South America can easily be worked from EI.

What about Cycle 24?

The start and peak of a sunspot cycle are calculated using *Smoothed Sunspot Numbers*, an index based around sunspot observations over a twelve-month period.

Most experts expect Cycle 24 to peak in the Autumn of 2013, which suggests there will be a jump in sunspot numbers in 2013. However, some commentators have argued that this jump will not happen and that Cycle 24 has already peaked. Whatever the actual outcome, it seems that the current cycle will be the smallest in over 100 years.

South Dublin Radio Club Christmas Party

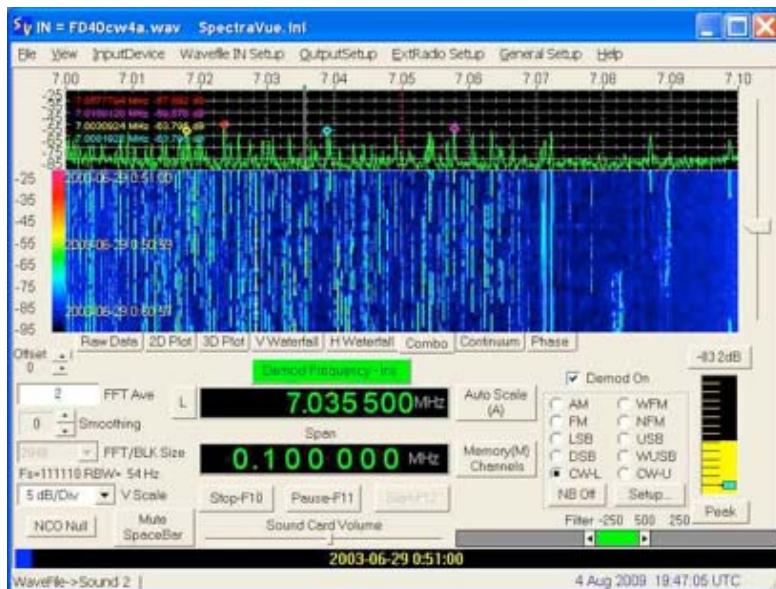


Software Defined Radio On the Internet

By Tony EI5EM

Relatively recently I have been having great fun listening remotely to web-based software defined radio receivers. The website www.websdr.org lists many SDR sites around the world where virtual receivers can be accessed and controlled from any computer connected to the internet.

On most SDR sites the receivers can be used simultaneously by many users. The virtual interface is the traditional receiver front panel and is very easy to use. Each individual user can select the band, frequency, mode, bandwidth and sensitivity of the received signal by using the computer mouse. It allows the SWL to tune the receiver as if he or she was in the actual location and sitting in front of the rig.



Most remote SDR receivers display a scrolling waterfall where each signal within the band is shown as a vertical trace across that band. Clicking the mouse on a trace will tune to the signal. The condition of the band at the location can easily be judged by looking at the visual display. At that level alone it is interesting and fascinating. For example, if the bands are dead in this part of the world it is interesting to listen on a receiver located in Russia, USA or some other remote location.

However, remote SDR receivers can also be a useful tool for testing propagation conditions and for checking how your own signal is being received wherever the remote SDR receiver is located. It is also interesting to compare the signal strength of others transmissions at the remote location and in your own shack.

One slight drawback is that there is a transmission or processing time-lag or delay. There may be up to a second or so between transmitting and hearing your own signal on the remote SDR receiver. It is also interesting to see the trace that your own signal is creating on the scrolling waterfall display. Being interested in QRP operation, it is fascinating to monitor how changing the power level affects the received signal at the remote location.

Following on from this, one of our very own, David Malone EI7GYB gave a presentation on SDR in the Science Gallery (TCD) several years ago. David has a great style of delivery and has the knack of unravelling the mystery of SDR and making it easily understood by mere mortals.

David's presentation is up on youtube and is well worth viewing. I am writing this article on my office PC and access to Youtube is blocked but if you Google in these keywords you will easily find the clip **software radio David Malone Ignite**.

Best 73 de Tony EI5EM

Annual Cork Christmas Dinner at Vienna Woods Hotel



Mark EI3KD, Ken EI7DKB, John EI8IR, Jerry EI6BT



Brian EI5HV, Hugh EI3IY, Liam EI4FX, Jim EI3DP



Tim EI2KA, Jim EI8GS, Jeremy EI5GM, Dave EI9FBB

IRTS Shop

IRTS Members can avail of a 10% discount on purchases from the RSGB online shop.

IRTS members should select the “**Non members Price**” before placing the order and then enter the special IRTS Discount Code during the checkout process. At this point the 10% discount will be calculated.

IRTS members, who are also RSGB members, should continue to select the “**RSGB Member’s Price**” to get the RSGB Member’s discount and not use the IRTS Discount Code. It is not possible to obtain both discounts!

The IRTS Discount Code will change from time to time and will be published for members in Echo Ireland. Currently the Code is:

IRTS2012XWW

The RSGB Shop can be accessed from the link on the IRTS website or directly at

www.rsgbshop.org

The RSGB Shop stocks a comprehensive range of books on radio and related topics published by RSGB and others.

Check it out today!

Howth Radio Museum

In the last edition of Echo Ireland the location of the Hurdy Gurdy Museum of Vintage Radio was inadvertently given as Bray.

The museum is located in the Howth Martello Tower, Howth Harbour and the entrance is opposite the Abbey Tavern, Abbey Street, Howth.

A booklet about the museum is available here:

<https://docs.google.com/open?id=0B8sAltIRNHw2S2Y2MjkybF9CazA>

Catalogue of items in the Hurdy Gurdy Museum of Vintage Radio (under construction)
<http://hurdygurdymuseum.omeka.net/>

Twitter page: Hurdygurdyradio

Apologies and thanks to Joe Guilfoyne for pointing out the error.

RSGB Celebrates Centenary



The Radio Society of Great Britain this year celebrates its centenary. To mark the occasion, the special callsign Gx100RSGB will be activated continuously throughout the year. Each of the 13 RSGB Regions will host the special vent station for 28 days. An schedule is available on the RSGB website, www.rsgb.org.

RSGB Centenary Award 2013

The Awards are offered in four categories, a Basic and an Advance award for both the VHF/UHF bands and the HF Bands. Each award requires you to work the Gx100RSGB Special Event Stations (SES) in a given number of RSGB Regions/Bands. Each contact with the SES per Region and Band counts. There are a total of 13 RSGB Regions.

The Award requirements have been set as follows:

- VHF/UHF Basic = 3 Regions/Bands
- VHF/UHF Gold = 6 Regions/Bands
- HF Basic = 7 Regions/Bands
- HF Gold = 10 Regions/Bands

In addition to the above minimum number of contacts with the SES on a Regional/Band basis each award requires you to gain a number of points which are collected by working other stations. Points are available as follows

- The first contact with a UK IOTA entity on each band (1 point).
- PLUS EITHER
- **On VHF/UHF only**
 - First contact with a UK DXCC entity on each band (1 point)
 - First contact with each IARU Locator Square on each band (1 point)

OR

On HF only

- First contact with each Commonwealth Call Area on each band (1 point)
- First contact with each of the ITU Zones on each band (1 point)

So, your first contact with a UK station on VHF will give you 1 for the UK IOTA, 1 for the UK DXCC and 1 for the Locator Square = 3 points.

Work the same station on another band and that is another 3 points.

Work another station in the same IOTA and DXCC but a different Locator = 1 point. Work that station again on another band and you have another point.

This may seem a little complicated but once you have made a few contacts it will all become very clear.

A Check Sheet will be available to record and track your contacts, and a Claim Form is available to submit your application.

The Awards are available for SWLs - where the rules below stipulate contacts please read as reception reports for SWL claims.

Single band entries will be accepted providing the applicant makes the required point totals. All entrants can use either multi-mode or single according to choice and certificates will be endorsed accordingly.

Note that 60m and bands at 23cm and above are excluded from the challenge.

Note that no QSL card confirmations are required for any of the awards.

Full details on www.rsgb.org

New RSGB Regional Manager in GI

Philip Hosey MI0MSO/EI8GPB



Congratulations to Philip MI0MSO/EI8GPB on his recent election as Regional Manager of RSGB Region 8 (GI). Philip is a founding member of the West Tyrone ARC and has served as both Secretary and PRO.

He has also served as a committee member with the Foyle & District ARC.

Philip can be contacted at work on +4428 8224 0809 or on mobile at +44 9338 6795.

JOTA at Raphoe

A great day in Raphoe, Co Donegal, on Sunday 22nd October where around 30 cub scouts took part in a Jamboree on the Air/Jamboree on the Internet using the Donegal club callsign EI1DRC..

The scouts made many QSOs from the Volt House in Raphoe where Jason EI6GRB had set up a Yaesu FT-2000 running into a magmount 20m antenna on the roof of his car outside the window of the scout den.

They operated around the scout calling frequency of 14.290 and also on 28.390 and made some great contacts from Madiera Island, Russia and France to Italy.

An 80m magmount was tried also but noise was S9+ and the band was dead so they relied on the higher bands.

They went on air at 3pm and ran until 6pm – the first hours were good but activity dropped off around 4.30 onwards as European scout stations seemed to be going for their tea

The scouts presented Jason with his first scouting badge for helping them out JOTA is always held on the third full weekend in October.



Excerpts from the HX files

A Look at ATV with Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX - Excerpt 024

Hello and welcome to Xtract 024 of the HX Files.

In this issue I would like to write about some of the templates that were made and used, to help in the layout of the parts in some of the projects constructed over the last few years.

Like in any construction project you would layout the various parts to be used in the project to find out not only what goes where but where to drill, file and shape.

When it comes to drilling out the holes and filing them to shape for the final fitting, you would be placing the parts in and out of their positions many times before their final placement and as a result the parts can get marked, damaged and even broken.

As a result of this, over some time I have made various templates to help me out. See photo 1 for a few of them beside the

been used, as they are most often mounted on to some heat sink by the manufacturer in its enclosure and this would entail removing one of its lids and this was a ready made template that could be used for marking out its location.

But when it came to space being a part of the construction a piece of wood was cut to the size of the amp and the lids bonded to the wood, and some small screws and/or panel pins are used to act as their coaxial sockets and DC connections. Later on some of the templates had N type sockets and others had the SMA type fitted to them as well as a screw or two and these screws would act as the DC connections.

The 1.2/2.5GHZ transmitters are the same size as each other, and likewise their receiver boards, so only one of each would have to be made.

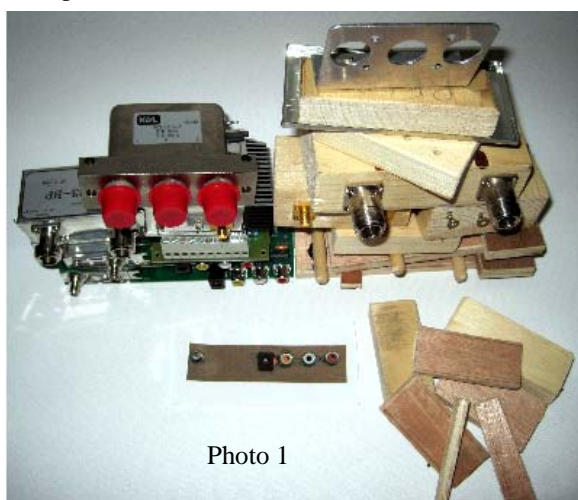


Photo 1

actual parts to be used.

The easiest to make was the template made for the various amplifiers that have

After sourcing some scrap wood, some marking out and rough cutting of the wood was done first and by using some dowel rod to mimic the phono, aerial and DC sockets.

Smaller parts like the coaxial relays fuse boards, aerial sockets, and such like would not require a template, but I found out that parts like the SMA terminated coaxial relay would be on most projects featured in Echo Ireland be fixed internally in the project and mounted

onto, or sandwiched between a couple of suitable heat sinks.

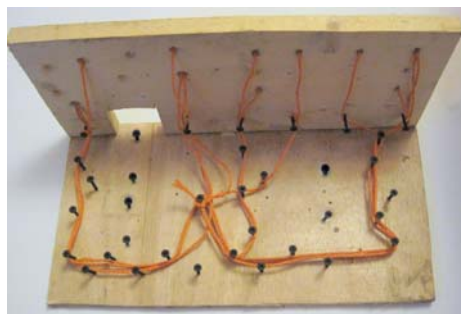
The larger N type coaxial relays I have used often come with a mounting bracket that can be used as a template for marking out the locations of the aerial sockets, seen on top right in photo 1.

For an item like the TV/monitor it would not be practical to make a template unless you could be guaranteed to be able to get the same size of TV/monitor every time. As a footnote I have a couple of 4 inch (100mm) monitors, but their mounting plates are both completely different from one another.

At a recent rally four 6 inch (150mm) monitors were purchased and these are

identical to one another so it will be worth making a template for them.

These monitors were used for an ice system (in car entertainment system) and would be originally wrapped around the headrest of the vehicle by their own Velcro straps. But as they could be mounted onto the projects by either fixing some small pieces of angle aluminium to their back, or to make a frame, and for it to be attached to the project first and then to the monitor.



Some of the projects do not have many connecting power or coaxial cables, but those that require a lot of wiring a wiring loom would be made.

When a wiring loom is needed for a project a layout of the parts is naturally done first on paper and then a line drawn from the various part to its switch, LED, power or coaxial point, and then when the case or box to house the project has been found, it is also decided what parts are going where.

A piece of wood is cut to the size of the chassis and the various project parts would then be screwed or stuck to the wood. With that completed some screws or nails were added that would act as formers or guides for the various cables to be used in the loom, by simply using some string (in stock, as it is cheaper than the finished cable) to act as the cables, the string would be tied onto the screws on the templates and then the string ran along the board to the other points on its

(Continued on page 25)



line and then tied off. (This would be repeated until all parts were catered for) Once you were happy you would transfer each length of string to the appropriate length and rating of cable, and with all the cables now replacing the string they could be bound together with some tape or cable ties.

As you can see in photo 2 the template of the chassis and front panel have a few holes and screws about their surfaces. These are for the various switches and any other parts that would be attached to the panels.

You may be able to see the string and the screws making up some of the loom, the piece of string tied to the screw representing the switch and routed along the screws to the fuse point and then to the DC supply, and this you would do until you have everything wired up.

There are a few holes in the chassis boards but I cover the ones not in use with a piece of sticky tape or label when wiring up the parts so I attach the string



For some project you may have no other choice but to use the actual parts, as you can see in photo 3, these parts are being used in a forthcoming project, the parts are from a Bird Wattmeter, and the only part seen other than the meter is the cavity that its slug is located, but that is another story.....

And finally, I would like to wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and may your signals continue to be P5.

73, Pat.

Updates and enquiries to Thos EI2JD at thoscaffrey@hotmail.com

	DXCC Confirmed	68	EI8JB (New)	38	EI7JZ
245	EI7BA	66	EI7IM	37	EI4BZ
212	EI9O (+2)	65	EI6ARB	37	EI4KE
204	EI9FBB (+1)	65	EI7M	37	EI5IF
200	EI7CC (+12)	65	EI8DD	37	EI6IL (+6)
188	EI3IO	64	EI9FV	37	EI6JK (+1)
186	EI2JD (+1)	64	EI9KB	37	EI8FH
182	EI4CF	61	EI4IS	36	EI2KC
165	EI0CZ	61	EI9JM	36	EI4HH
163	EI2KC (+8)	60	EI6CPB	36	EI9FVB
161	EI1DG	59	EI5HE	35	EI4GNB
159	EI4GJB (New)	56	EI7BMB	33	EI5GM
158	EI2GLB (+33)	55	EI6GGB	33	EI6AL
156	EI3GYB	54	EI5DD (+3)	33	EI9GLB (New)
154	EI7JN	54	EI7IQ	32	EI0W
153	EI6JK (+51)	53	EI4GD (New)	32	EI3HA
153	EI8GS (+3)	52	EI1509 (+2)	32	EI5JQ (New)
152	EI9KC (+8)	52	EI8H	32	EI7GSB
150	EI9FVB	52	EI8JW	32	EI8BLB (New)
148	EI9HX	50	EI6AK	30	EI5GJB
147	EI6IZ	49	EI1429	30	EI5GSB
139	EI6AL	49	EI2FSB	30	EI9HQ
131	EI8FH	49	EI5GB (+2)		
130	EI6IL	48	EI4GMB		Worked Prefixes
130	EI9JU	47	EI2HGB (New)	1,577	EI4CF (+21)
128	EI7JZ (+7)	47	EI3EBB	1,362	EI7CC (+47)
127	EI6HB	46	EI9GTB	1,352	EI9JU (+70)
127	EI8IU (+22)	63	EI9GWB	1,289	EI2JD (+15)
126	EI4HH (+6)	45	EI1571 (+10)	1,268	EI6JK (+59)
124	EI7JK (+3)	44	EI3GD	1,256	EI8GS (+56)
122	EI8IQ	44	EI5GN (+1)	1,173	EI7JN (+19)
120	EI0W (+13)	43	EI7GEB (+8)	1,169	EI9FBB (+21)
119	EI4GNB (+2)	43	EI4DIB	1,112	EI0W (+49)
116	EI4BZ	43	EI7IS	1,027	EI4GXB (+19)
114	EI9HQ (+6)	42	EI5IX	1,105	EI0CZ (+26)
111	EI5JQ (New)	42	EI7GM (+3)	1,009	EI9HQ (+23)
109	EI5GSB	41	EI4IR	991	EI1DG (+45)
109	EI5IF	41	EI7GBB(+1)	984	EI2KC (+72)
108	EI3HA	40	EI9GGB	971	EI7JK (+36)
107	EI9GLB (+15)	39	EI4HX	951	EI3IO (+18)
106	EI3CTB (+13)	38	EI2FS	944	EI2GLB (+120)
105	EI7DAR	35	EI3GDB	926	EI7BA (+19)
104	EI4GXB	31	EI7GZB (+2)	841	EI8FH (+49)
103	EI5GM	30	EI7CHB	837	EI0PL (+42)
103	EI5GJB (+3)	29	EI3HDB (New)	832	EI4BZ (+15)
101	EI2II	28	EI4IN	796	EI6AL (+19)
101	EI7GSB (+3)	27	EI9CBB	789	EI9FVB (+9)
98	EI0PL (+4)	26	EI3FFB (New)	777	EI4GNB (+39)
98	EI4KE (+11)	26	EI7IW	767	EI3CTB (+99)
96	EI3KE (+2)	25	EI7CSB	756	EI7GSB (+46)
96	EI9CF (+25)	24	EI8GNB (New)	725	EI9KC (+21)
95	EI5GUB (+9)	23	EI1627 (New)	723	EI2II (+13)
95	EI6GHB (New)	23	EI8JA (New)	699	EI9O (+11)
94	EI7IX	21	EI8GGB (New)	689	EI5IF (+18)
93	EI8HL	20	EI2IV	641	EI8JB (+21)
91	EI8BLB			628	EI8IQ (+32)
90	EI3JB (+11)		Worked All Zones	627	EI7JZ (+34)
90	EI3GAB (+5)	40	EI0CZ	624	EI3GYB (+24)
88	EI8JB (+20)	40	EI4CF	610	EI5GSB (+35)
87	EI4HQ	40	EI7BA	602	EI5GM (+6)
87	EI5HV (+7)	40	EI7JN	567	EI9JM (+4)
86	EI9ES	40	EI9O	565	EI4GAB (+38)
82	EI5EV (+1)	40	EI9JU	550	EI5GJB (+10)
81	EI7BFB	40	EI9FBB	531	EI8IU (+27)
79	EI8JK (+2)	39	EI1DG	525	EI8HL (New)
76	EI8JR	39	EI2JD	522	EI3JB (+65)
75	EI9EW (+2)	39	EI2GLB (+4)	501	EI3GAB (+68)
75	EI9GSB	39	EI3IO	491	EI4KE (+124)
74	EI8DL	39	EI4GXB	470	EI8BLB (New)
73	EI6IF	39	EI7CC (+1)	468	EI3HA (+20)
71	EI3IS	39	EI8GS	467	EI3KE (+42)
71	EI4GAB	39	EI9HX	426	EI4HH (+21)
70	EI6GF	39	EI9KC	409	EI8GP
69	EI8GP	38	EI3GYB	379	EI9GSB (+13)



Contest Corner

by IRTS Contest Manager Thos Caffrey EI2JD

Congrats to all who dipped into the great world of contesting during the past year especially those who may have tried it for the first time and those who may have achieved a new personnel best and to the few that won a contest.

Big congrats to Oleg EI7KD for winning the Ukranian DX Contest and for winning and setting a new record in his section in the IOTA contest.

Congrats to Dan EI3JZ on his double European Record in CQ WPX SSB 40m and 80m Single Op High Power.

Congrats also to Enda EI2II for getting the CQ Silver Medal for accuracy in the CQ WPX SSB 2011 as he submitted an error free log.

Congrats to the many EI's who set new EI records in the many contests, WELL DONE to ALL.

As time goes by we have to update our Contest Rules.

As time allows over the coming year I will endeavour to delete outdated rules.

The first rule I am changing with immediate effect concerns the time you have after the contest is over to email your log to the contest manager.

Up to now you have had one month (30 days) which has been the standard in the past as most logs back then were hand-written and you had to check manually for dupes.

In the modern age of computers, all the logging, dupes and scoring is done instantly by your logging programme. This means it is possible to email your log as soon as the contest is over.

With that in mind I have cut the time to 14 days(2 weeks).

On the plus side you should get your contest results sooner.

I have recently added a list of county abbreviations to the 80m and 2m rules.

The "Contest Calendar" can be found in every issue of "Echo Ireland" and can be very useful when planning which contest to try.

The IOTA results are in this issue. Congrats to all participants. The EI Records will appear in the next issue and please note the amount of BLANK sections.

Pick a section and set a NEW EI Record.

On other pages of this issue you will find the eQSL and DXCC listings.

Since Dave EI4BZ and myself started these listings they have grown with "New" call signs every issue.

DXing is a very active part of the hobby in Ireland. A little contesting can help you in your DXing.

Pick a contest, for example the CQWW WPX SSB at the end of March.

This is a 48 hour contest on SSB only on all the HF contest bands (160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10).

Download a contest programme such as SD (www.ei5di.com) and open a log for the specific contest.

You do not have to commit the whole weekend to the contest but put an hour or two in every now and again.

You do not even have to find a frequency and call "CQ TEST" but just turn the dial and work the next station you hear calling "CQ TEST". He will want you in his log as much as you want him in your log.

When the contest is over send your "Cabrillo" log to the contest manager (even as a check log).

You can also upload your "ADIF" file to "eQSL" and "LOTW" (Logbook Of The World).

If you are interested in trying any contest and need help in setting up the log or need to know the contest report (59 001) for a particular contest then send me an email to

"contestmanager@irts.ie"

or phone me on: 087-2953256. Try and do it before the contest starts as I might be doing the contest as well, hi.

IRTS Contests.

I am still getting reports about some of the /portable stations in some of our contests.

I appreciate that it is possible to sometimes forget to give your call as /portable for the duration of the whole contest BUT the station you work that has not heard your call sign as /portable will lose the points for that QSO.

For you fixed stations out there that do participate in the IRTS contests please keep a vigilant ear for call signs as you go up and down the band even after working them.

If you take part in any of the IRTS contests PLEASE send in your log even if only as a check log.

At the time of going to print there were 50 logs submitted for the Winter 80m Counties contest with 29 counties active with only Carlow, Laois and Sligo not in the logs.

A very happy new year to you all and look forward to working many of you during 2013.

Good DXing and good contesting.

73 de Thos EI2JD

IRTS Contest Manager

CQ-IR 2012 - Results

The CQ-IR Contest was held on St. Patrick's Day 2012 and unfortunately conditions on the day did not help our cause and entries were well down on expectations.

Thanks to all who made the effort to support the contest and our congratulations to the section winners listed below.

Irish Manual		
CW EI100T	SSB EI4GXB	Mixed EI7GY
Irish Assisted		
CW EI/W5GN	SSB EI9HX	Mixed EI7M
World Manual		
CW G4OGB	SSB PD0PMS	Mixed SP9JZT



Congratulations to Alex EI8JX on setting a new EI record in the low power, single-op assisted section of the CQWW CW Contest 2011.
Apologies for the incorrect score listed in the last issue.

Contest Calendar

All Times UTC

January 2013

19-20	Sat 1200 - Sun 1159	Hungarian DX Contest	CW/SSB
25-27	Fri 2200 - Sun 2200	CQWW 160-Meter Contest	CW
26-27	Sat 0600 - Sun 1800	REF Contest	CW
26-27	Sat 1300 - Sun 1300	UBA DX Contest	SSB

February 2013

02-03	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	EPC WW DX Contest	BPSK63
09-10	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQWW RTTY WPX Contest	RTTY
09-10	Sat 1200 - Sat 1200	Dutch PACC Contest	CW/SSB
16-17	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	ARRL International DX Contest	CW
22-24	Fri 2200 - Sun 2200	CQWW 160-Meter Contest	SSB
23-24	Sat 0600 - Sun 1800	REF Contest	SSB
23-24	Sat 1300 - Sun 1300	UBA DX Contest	CW

March 2013

02-03	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	ARRL International DX Contest	SSB
16-17	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Russian DX Contest	SSB/CW
30-31	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQWW WPX Contest	SSB



The Mayo Radio Experimenters Network operated portable in this years 80m Counties Contest but lost significant time at the start due to a malfunction with their new generator.

Pictured on left is their mobile tower with the offending generator on board.

The East Cork Group EI7M

The East Cork Group EI7M continue to set the standards and they finished 2011 with the number two spot in Multi-single in Europe in the CQWW SSB contest held on the last weekend of October. Operators were EI's 3DP, 3JE, 3JZ, 3KD, 8IR and G4CLA

They followed this with first place in Europe in the ARRL 10m Contest held in December. Operators were EI's 3JE, 3JZ, 3KD, 4BZ and 8IR

They started off 2012 with a great performance in the CQWW 160m SSB Contest in February.

They finished 2nd in the world and 2nd in Europe to S52OP

The operators were EI3JE, EI3JZ, EI3KD, EI6BT, EI8IR and G4CLA.

They were first in Europe in 2011 and will be trying to win back the title over the last weekend in January.

In March, the EI7M SSB Crew were again active in the CQWW WPX Contest. This time using the special call EI100T, they entered the multi-two section and as well as winning Europe, they set a new European record in the process. They were placed 5th in the world.

Also in March, John EI8IR operated EI7M single band 15m in the ARRL DX SSB Contest and finished in third spot in Europe.

In May, Dan EI3JZ entered the CQWW WPX SSB on 15m low power and while the results have not been published, he is listed as first in Europe and 5th in the world in the submitted scores.

All this was achieved before they got their 105 foot rotating tower back in the air last September.

Installation was delayed due the very bad weather all summer which meant that ground conditions would not allow the heavy crane on to the field.

While the results of the 2012 CQWW DX Contests will not be out for a while yet, it looks like the EI7M SSB team have set another European record.

The CW team look like finishing among the top teams also.

Results: SSB Field Day 2012

	Call Sign	QSOs	Points
Open Section			
** 1	EI0W/P, Dundalk ARS EI2JD, EI9GTB	323	66,990
2	EI7T/P, Tipperary ARG EI7IG, EI3ENB	267	65,688
Restricted Section:			
** 1	EI3Z/P, Shannon Basin RC EI9HX, EI6IB, EI6GGB, EI8IU, EI4CF,	653	253,680
2	EI2SDR/P, South Dublin RC EI4HH, EI7HT, EI2HNB, EI7GY SWLs Stephen and Adam	340	82,095
3	EI2KA/P, Tim McKnight	147	26,527
** = Award Winner			

The Lagan Valley ARS

Annual Rally and Hamfest

**Saturday
2nd March 2013
11:30 a.m.**

**The Village Centre,
7 Ballynahinch Road,
Hillsborough BT26 6AR.**

Usual traders expected to attend
Refreshments available.
Admission £3.

Contact Jim, GI0DVU
for further information.
Tel: 04892662270

Results: 2m Counties Contest, Autumn 2012

	Call Sign	Valid QSOs	Counties	Total Score	Location
(a) High Power Portable					
EI	EI7DAR/P, Dundalk ARS Op's: EI2JD EI2HJB EI4DIB EI8EJB EI9GTB	42	15	2,715	LOU
	EI2SBC/P, Shannon Basin R C Op's: EI6IB, EI8IU,	32	15	2,580	LEI
(b) Low Power Portable					
EI	EI7GEB/P, David Morgan	34	17	2,924	WIC
	EI7GY/P, Joe Ryan	33	16	2,400	LAO
(c) High Power Fixed					
OEI	MI0RRE, Robert Rantin	31	10	960	ARM
EI	EI4L, John Kelly	22	8	608	KLD
(d) Low Power Fixed					
EI	EI2NCR, Skerries RC	18	7	571	DUB
(e) FM Only					
EI	EI3FFB, Eamonn Kavanagh	11	10	410	TIP
EI	Award Winner : Leading EI Station				
OEI	Award Winner : Leading station outside EI				



John Tait EI7BA

Congratulations to John on winning the
Annual CDXC HF Challenge 2012e

Outgoing QSL Bureau Address Change

**Tony Baldwin EI8JK,
Rathlin,
Kilcrohane,
Bantry,
Co. Cork.**

80m Beacon

I built a small beacon from 0.3watt to 3574.5kHz. Please have a listen and see if you can receive its signal.
QSL from eQSL or direct .
You can see diagrams and pictures at my site <http://iz3nyt.altervista.org/>.
Best Regards
73 de IZ3NYT

**Spring
2m Counties Contest
Easter Monday
April 1st 2013
1300 - 1500**

EI DXCC Listings (as at December 31st 2012)

Mixed

362 EI8H
353 EI7CC (+2)
 351 EI6S
 348 EI6FR
 343 EI7BA
 340 EI2GS
 326 EI3IO
 318 EI9FBB
 306 EI2HY
 301 EI9O
 295 EI5GM
292 EI2JD (+2)
 287 EI4II
 287 EI9JF
283 EI6IZ (+9)
 269 EI2CR
 269 EI8GS
263 EI4BZ (+2)
 262 EI2GX
 246 EI2GLB
 246 EI9FVB
 243 EI8FH
 236 EI8IU
235 EI1DG (+2)
 222 EI7GY
 210 EI6IL
 209 EI7JN
 205 EI4HH
 205 EI6AL
 198 EI4GXB
 196 EI5IF
195 EI9GLB (+10)
191 EI6HB (+18)
 184 EI9E
 182 EI3HA
 161 EI7JZ
 150 EI9HQ
 140 EI4IR
 135 EI9CF
 131 EI5GSB
 129 EI5GUB
 128 EI8HA
 127 EI9CJ
118 EI5FQB (+3)
 115 EI5JQ
 101 EI7JQ
 101 EI8JB
 100 EI3CTB
 100 EI3GAB
 100 EI4HQ

Phone

351 EI7CC (+2)
 348 EI6S
 344 EI8EM
340 EI7BA (+1)
 338 EI2GS
 331 EI8AR
 330 EI6FR
 303 EI3GV
 301 EI9FBB
 300 EI8AU
 279 EI4GK
276 EI2JD (+1)
 269 EI8GS
 264 EI9HX
 246 EI9FVB
 225 EI9JF
 213 EI7GL
 208 EI4GJB
204 EI4BZ (+3)
 200 EI6IL

196 EI2GLB
195 EI9GLB (+10)
 192 EI4HH
 188 EI2CH
 186 EI7II
 178 EI3HA
 178 EI9E
 177 EI9FE
 175 EI8IU
160 EI2II (+2)
 155 EI5IF
 155 EI7JZ
 142 EI6HB
 142 EI9HQ
 131 EI5GSB
 130 EI6AL
118 EI5FQB (+3)
 114 EI8FH
 105 EI1CS
 102 EI4DJB
 101 EI3IP
 101 EI4GNB
 100 EI3GAB
CW
 334 EI7BA
329 EI7CC (+8)
 311 EI6FR
 295 EI9FBB
274 EI6IZ (+13)
273 EI2JD (+1)
 253 EI9JF
242 EI4BZ (+1)
 233 EI8FH
 212 EI7GY
 197 EI8IU
190 EI1DG (+4)
 190 EI6AL
 182 EI5GM
 176 EI2GLB
158 EI8JX (+53)
 127 EI9CF
 109 EI2IH
 104 EI4HH
104 EI6HB (New)
 100 EI3KG

RTTY/Digital

275 EI7BA (+4)
204 EI1DG (+4)
 161 EI6FR
 142 EI2GLB
 121 EI6HB (+3)
 104 EI5IF
 102 EI8FH

160m

232 EI7BA (+3)
 212 EI3IO
 133 EI9FBB
131 EI6IZ (+3)
117 EI2JD (+3)

80m

304 EI6S
287 EI7BA (+1)
 228 EI9FBB
 163 EI2JD
 142 EI3IO
 134 EI6FR
127 EI6IZ (+4)
 119 EI4BZ
 103 EI8GS

40m

308 EI7BA (+2)
 242 EI9FBB
 199 EI2JD
 194 EI6FR
190 EI6IZ (+10)
 185 EI3IO
 180 EI6IZ
 177 EI9JF
 139 EI4BZ
 129 EI8GS
 118 EI9E
 117 EI7GL
 106 EI7GY
 104 EI9FVB
 101 EI2GLB

30m

319 EI7BA
 234 EI9FBB
 223 EI3IO
199 EI6IZ (+11)
 191 EI6FR
 167 EI9JF
 131 EI7GY
121 EI2JD (+3)
120 EI4BZ (+1)
 105 EI8IU

20m

337 EI7BA
 317 EI6FR
 301 EI9FBB
253 EI2JD (+2)
 251 EI3IO
 217 EI9JF
 211 EI8GS
206 EI6IZ (+13)
193 EI4BZ (+2)
 193 EI9FVB
 174 EI1DG
 171 EI7JN
 161 EI2GLB
145 EI6HB (+11)
 144 EI4GJB
 144 EI9E
 136 EI7GY
 128 EI8IU
 126 EI3GV
 122 EI5IF
 121 EI3HA
 113 EI7JZ
 112 EI8IQ
 112 EI9HQ
108 EI9GLB (+8)
 105 EI2II
 102 EI5GSB
 102 EI6AL

17m

332 EI7BA (+1)
 274 EI9FBB
 223 EI6FR
186 EI2JD (+2)
173 EI6IZ (+18)
 146 EI9JF
 132 EI7GY
 132 EI9FVB
 129 EI3IO
 127 EI4GJB
 127 EI6AL
 125 EI8IU
 106 EI2GLB

105 EI3GV
101 EI4BZ (New)
100 EI1DG (New)

15m

323 EI7BA (+1)
 268 EI6FR
 260 EI9FBB
 224 EI2JD
 204 EI3IO
191 EI4BZ (+3)
181 EI6IZ (+29)
 181 EI8GS
 169 EI2GLB
 167 EI9FVB
 163 EI9E
145 EI1DG (+5)
136 EI6HB (+18)
 125 EI7GY
 123 EI6AL
 120 EI4GJB
 117 EI8IU
 112 EI3GV
 109 EI7JN
 105 EI9JF
 102 EI7JZ

12m

304 EI7BA (+3)
 227 EI9FBB
 142 EI2JD
 109 EI6AL
 106 EI3IO
 106 EI9FVB
 104 EI6FR
 100 EI4GJB

10m

294 EI7BA
 257 EI3IO
 218 EI9FBB
189 EI2JD (+2)
 187 EI6FR
181 EI4BZ (+1)
 171 EI8GS
 150 EI2GLB
 144 EI7GL
 138 EI9E
130 EI1DG (+10)
 129 EI4GK
127 EI6IZ (New)
 126 EI9FVB
 124 EI4HH
 120 EI6AL
 112 EI4GJB
 111 EI9CJ
105 EI6HB (New)
 103 EI3GV
 101 EI2II

6m

160 EI3IO
 120 EI9FBB
 111 EI7GL
 107 EI2JD
 101 EI3EBB

2m

113 EI4DQ (+3)

See www.arrl.org/dxcc

DXCC Honor Roll

Mixed

340 EI6FR/348
 338 EI7BA/343
338 EI7CC/353 (+2)
 334 EI8H/362
 332 EI6S/351
 332 EI2GS/340

Phone

336 EI7CC/351(+2)
 336 EI8EM/344
335 EI7BA/340 (+1)
 331 EI6S/348

DXCC Challenge

2,800 EI7BA (+15)
 2,217 EI9FBB
 1,850 EI3IO
1,686 EI2JD (+12)
 1,684 EI6FR
1,654 EI7CC (+53)
1,479 EI6IZ (+158)
1,112 EI4BZ (+56)
 1,018 EI9JF

DXCC Single Band Status (31/12/12)

		160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	2
10	EI9FBB	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	-
10	EI3IO	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	-
10	EI2JD	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	-
9	EI7BA	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
8	EI6FR	-	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
8	EI6IZ	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	-	10	-	-
7	EI4BZ	-	80	40	30	20	17	15	-	10	-	-
6	EI9FVB	-	-	40	-	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
5	EI2GLB	-	-	40	-	20	17	15	-	10	-	-
5	EI4GJB	-	-	-	-	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
5	EI6AL	-	-	-	-	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
5	EI7GY	-	-	40	30	20	17	15	-	-	-	-
5	EI8GS	-	82	40	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-
5	EI9JF	-	-	40	30	20	17	15	-	-	-	-
4	EI1DG	-	-	-	-	20	17	15	-	10	-	-
4	EI3GV	-	-	-	-	20	17	15	-	10	-	-
4	EI8IU	-	-	-	30	20	17	15	-	-	-	-
4	EI9E	-	-	40	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-
3	EI6HB	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-
3	EI7GL	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	10	6	-
2	EI2II	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	10	-	-
2	EI7JN	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	-	-	-
2	EI7JZ	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	-	-	-
1	EI3EBB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
1	EI3HA	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI4DQ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
1	EI4GK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
1	EI4HH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
1	EI5GSB	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI5IF	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI6S	-	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI8IQ	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI9CJ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
1	EI9GLB	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI9HQ	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
		160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	2

Islands On The Air Contest 2012

Results for EI/GI Stations

Position in Category	Call Sign	IOTA Ref	Location	QSOs	Mults	Score
DXpeditions						
IOTA DXpedition, Multi-Operator, Mixed Mode, 24 Hour, High Power (IOTA DXPN MS MIX 24H HP)						
9	EJ0PL	EU103	Saltees	2,084	408	6,258,720
IOTA DXpedition, Multi-Operator, Mixed Mode, 24 Hour, Low Power (IOTA DXPN MS MIX 24H LP)						
13	EJ3Z	EU121	Inisbofin	1,081	247	2,071,095
IOTA DXpedition, Single-Operator Unassisted, Mixed Mode, 24 Hour, Low Power (IOTA DXPN SOU MIX 24H LP)						
7	EI/DK2AT/P	EU115	Ireland	202	86	172,860
IOTA DXpedition, Single-Operator Unassisted, CW, 12 Hour, Low Power (IOTA DXPN SOU CW 12H QRP)						
10	EI5KF/p	EU121	Bere Island	324	30	61,500
Fixed – Multi-Operator						
IOTA Fixed, Multi-Operator, Mixed Mode, 24 hour, High Power (IOTA FIX MS MIX 24H HP)						
22	EI2SDB	EI115	Ireland	896	143	61,500
Fixed – Single-Operator/Assisted						
IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Assisted, Mixed, 24 hour, High Power (IOTA FIX SOA MIX 24 HP)						
10	EI9KC	EU115	Ireland	95	38	32,870
IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Assisted, CW, 24 hour, High Power (IOTA FIX SOA CW 24H P)						
1	EI7KD	EU115	Ireland	2,138	296	4,593,920
5	GI4VIV	EU115	Ireland	157	136	313,480
IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Assisted, SSB, 24 hour, High Power (IOTA FIX SOA SSB 24H HP)						
5	EI7CC	EU115	Ireland	655	110	520,850
IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Assisted, CW, 24 hour, Low Power (IOTA FIX SOA CW 24H LP)						
5	EI8JX	EU115	Ireland	686	75	332,250
IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Assisted, SSB, 24 hour, Low Power (IOTA FIX SOA SSB 24H LP)						
3	EI7JZ	EU115	Ireland	300	142	457,240
IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Assisted, CW, 12 hour, Low Power (IOTA FIX SOA CW 12 LP)						
1	EI/W5GN	EU115	Ireland	518	138	589,260
IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Assisted, SSB, 12 hour, High Power (IOTA FIX SOA SSB 12H HP)						
1	GI5K	EU115	Ireland	1,211	230	2,119,450
IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Assisted, SSB, 12 hour, Low Power (IOTA FIX SOA SSB 12H LP)						
3	GI4SZW	EU115	Ireland	194	57	93,480
4	GI4AAM	EU115	Ireland	120	46	53,360
Fixed – Single-Operator/Unassisted						
IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Unassisted, SSB, 24 hour, Low Power (IOTA FIX SOU SSB 24H LP)						
1	EI1A	EU115	Ireland	1,211	188	1,820,780
22	EI3JZ	EU115	Ireland	69	31	21,545
IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Unassisted, Mixed, 12 hour, High Power (IOTA FIX SOU MIX 12H HP)						
?	MI0BPB	EU115	Ireland	496	54	176,040
IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Unassisted, Mixed, 12 hour, Low Power (IOTA FIX SOU MIX 12H LP)						
6	EI2KA	EU115	Ireland	2205	78	160,290
IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Unassisted, SSB, 12 hour, Low Power (IOTA FIX SOU SSB 12H LP)						
7	EI3CTB	EU115	Ireland	233	81	181,035
11	GI4JTF	EU115	Ireland	135	65	93,925
26	EI4DJB	EU115	Ireland	91	34	29,920
36	EI4GXB	EU115	Ireland	40	15	6,000
IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Unassisted, CW, 12 hour, High Power (IOTA FIX SOU CW 12H HP)						
10	EI7GY	EU115	Ireland	234	72	141,840
IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Unassisted, CW, 12 hour, Low Power (IOTA FIX SOU CW 12H LP)						
17	GI4DOH	EU115	Ireland	490	44	128,040
63	GI4BQI	EU115	Ireland	14	3	450

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Contact: aidanei8ce@eircom.net or
087 9881021

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as new condition.
Watson W-25AAM regulated DC
power supply.
Contact Philip EI3DA
philipodo@gmail.com
01-8463 488 or 085-1268 522

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